



Halt 'creeping' cost of meals to help families – council

SCHOOL DINNERS: PLEA OVER COSTS

Report by Megan Archer

THE price of hot meals in Dudley schools should be frozen for a year, council bosses have urged.

Dudley Council chiefs have advised headteachers across the borough that the cost to parents should remain at £2.30 from September 2018 to July 2019, the same as this academic year.

The meals have increased in price by 10p every year for the last three years.

Councillor Angus Lees, cabinet member for children's services at the council, said keeping the price the same would help families with their finances. He explained: "We recognise as a council that for many families money is tight."

"In light of price rises in recent years, we are recommending a price freeze as a goodwill gesture to help with family finances."

"Healthy, hot, nourishing school meals can help children improve their concentration at school, and ultimately fulfil their academic potential. We hope a price freeze will mean more children are able to enjoy a healthy meal at school every day to aid with their learning and development."

The authority's catering service has written to headteachers at all council-run primary and secondary schools this week, recommending the price freeze. It will be up to individual schools whether to accept the recommendation.

MP for Dudley Mike Wood said if the freeze was accepted it would be excellent news for parents and carers.

He added: "This is great news for local parents in Dudley. It's so important that Dudley Council helps every child have access to a good, affordable meal every day."

"My two children both go to Dudley schools and we have seen the price of school meals creep up. This will be a big help to a lot of people."

Currently parents who pay for school meals for their children pay £2.30 a day for each child. Back in 2015 parents paid £2 a day.

THINGS WERE LOOKING UP ON RUBY'S BIRTHDAY



Ruby Holloway feeding her adopted giraffe Kubwa at Dudley Zoo with help from one of the animal keepers at the Castle Hill attraction

BIRTHDAY girl Ruby Holloway definitely dressed the part when she came to Dudley Zoo to feed her adopted giraffe, Kubwa.

The eight-year-old Huntingtree Primary School pupil from Halesowen wore a black hoodie with 'Kubwa' printed on the sleeve and a pink T-shirt with his photo on. The garment also said 'Kubwa's Adopted Mommy 2018' as the giraffe-mad youngster had been treated to an adoption pack for her birthday.

Ruby's family had the personalised clothing

made for her and also gave her a giraffe Close Encounter experience to feed 17-year-old Kubwa and nine-year-old female, Josie.

Ruby said: "I loved feeding the giraffes and got to ask the staff lots of questions. I'm crazy about giraffes and at home I have piles of giraffe toys, a giraffe duvet cover and a 3D picture of a giraffe on my wall."

Mother Clare said: "It's been a great day and Ruby felt really special in her Kubwa clothing. Her sister came up with the idea for

the hoodie and T-shirt and it will be a great reminder of the feed experience and the year she adopted Kubwa."

Ruby visited the zoo with her mother Clare, father Ian, 19-year-old sister Meghan and her sister's boyfriend Kieren Billingham.

Rothschild's giraffes are the world's rarest subspecies of giraffe.

Named after naturalist, Lord Walter Rothschild, they are also known as Baringo giraffes after the Lake Baringo area of Kenya.

COURT

Murder charge after man stabbed

A MAN has been charged with the murder of Martin Biggs seven months after he was found with multiple stab wounds at his Cradley Heath home.

Karl Glancey was yesterday (Wednesday) due to appear in court in Birmingham charged with killing the father-of-four at Corngreaves Walk on November 12.

Glancey, aged 44 from Tividale, was arrested that day but sectioned and detectives had to wait months to question him.

He is also accused of two counts of attempted murder and one of wounding during incidents in Dingle Avenue, Cradley Heath, Poplar Close and West Avenue, Tividale.

JOBS

£5m council bill to cut back staff

MORE than £5 million was spent on redundancies at a Black Country council in a year with more job cuts on the way.

Sandwell Council axed 131 jobs in 2017/18 with another 35 to go over the next 12 months. The decision to terminate workers' contracts, blamed on the 'difficult economic climate', cost the council £5.6m.

Another nearly £2m will be spent trimming the workforce during 2018/19.

POLICE

The thin blue line gets even thinner

POLICE officer numbers in the West Midlands and Staffordshire have plummeted by more than 2,500 in a decade.

West Midlands Police has lost 24 per cent in officer numbers over the period from 2010 to September last year, and now has 228 officers per 100,000 population. This dramatic drop is the fourth biggest of any force across England and Wales.

INSIDE

HONOUR FOR BLOOD BIKER



PAGE 3

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2 CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
THE TICKET	15
WORLD CUP WALL CHART	16-17
TV	20-22
BRAIN GYM	23
MOTORING	29-30
SPORT	31-32

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Nursery back on track after six months

NURSERY staff are celebrating after receiving a 'good' rating from Ofsted – six months after they were rated 'inadequate'.

Tiger Lily Day Nursery in Lutley Lane, Halesowen, has been praised for taking successful steps in addressing weaknesses raised in their last inspection.

The nursery had been rated 'inadequate' by the education watchdog in November after inspectors found 'children's safety was not assured'.

But inspectors returned to the

nursery in May and rated it 'good' in all areas. The report said: "Collectively, they are effective in their approach and have worked hard to implement change."

"Purposeful self-evaluation and their commitment to improving outcomes for children have led to significant and positive changes to the nursery."

"The management team makes successful use of recently revised supervision systems. They have developed a targeted plan of professional

development and regularly monitor staff's practice to support and nurture effective teaching, learning and reflective practice."

"The quality of teaching is good, overall. Well-qualified staff understand how children learn."

"Children receive lots of praise and recognition for their efforts and achievements, which successfully promotes their self-esteem and emotional well-being."

Charlotte Moseley, managing director at Tiger Lily, said: "I am ex-

ceptionally proud of all the staff and would like to thank them for all their continued hard work and dedication over the past 12 months."

"The staff have shown commitment to training and development and brought new ideas, enthusiasm and passion daily to their roles as we have strived to make significant improvements."

"We greatly appreciate our parents/carers and as a whole team we would like to thank them for their continued support and faith in us."

Who needs The Stones? Quarrymen prove a hit

THEY formed years before The Rolling Stones and while they don't play stadiums, John Lennon's first band The Quarrymen still know how to put on a show.

The four-piece are all aged in their 70s but showed they can still give Mick and Keith a run for their money helping to bring in a record-breaking crowd for the Romstock festival, near Halesowen.

Lennon founded the Quarrymen in 1956 before Paul McCartney and George Harrison joined the existing lineup and it evolved to become The Beatles.

Original members of The Quarrymen agreed to perform on stage at playing fields off St Kenelms Road in Romsley over the weekend. The line-up included Rod Davis, a former schoolfriend of Lennon's, Colin Hanton, Len Garry and Chas Newby.

The skiffle band thrilled more than 2,000 festival-goers with songs like "That'll be the Day".

Festival organiser Mark Moran said: "They're legends. They stormed it, it was wonderful. They're fit as a fiddle for their age and they were such lovely guys. What shocked me was that there were a lot of young people that came to see them."

"Music itself was changed because of these guys and they were the catalyst for the Beatles beginning."

"It was special, words can't describe how good it was. It was like a magical history tour of music taking part in our little village, I'm still on cloud nine."

Mr Davis said the original members of The Quarrymen first reunited when they were persuaded to take to the stage when they attended The Cavern Club's 40th birthday in 1997



John Lennon's pre-Beatles band The Quarrymen with festival organiser Mark Moran, centre, at Romstock

and have been playing together since. Three of the original band members – Rod, Colin and Len – are joined by Chas Newby, who played bass with The Beatles during several gigs.

Mr Davis even has an photo taken by his father of The Quarrymen on the back of a truck at a church fete in Liverpool with John Lennon.

Now in its seventh year Romstock 2018 pulled in more than 2,000 people on Saturday to raise money for youth projects in the area.

Mr Moran added: "It was a staggering success. The cost to put together these events is so huge and we had to raise the prices to £15 this year and I was a bit worried about that, but in the end it was so worth it."

"We sold 1000 tickets before the event and reached in excess of 2,000 for people on the door, it's phenomenal. Everyone had a fantastic time and it was a joyous event. It was a lovely, family-friendly day."

"So many bands want to come and

play for us now. We're trying to add to it each year with little bits here and there. I have a plan and it's a bit ambitious, but I think people would book their tickets for next year now if they could."

"We're aiming to top this year and we'll do it."

"I also want to thank David Powell, the Chairman, he's taken this from a small plastic tent with 200 people and upped it a gear but still as a small village affair as we want it to be."

Offices sold for £1.2m as Brum market is hotting up

BLACK Country-based property agents Bond Wolfe have recorded yet another million pound sale as interest from investors in the West Midlands commercial property market continues to hot up.

The latest deal to be announced by the West Bromwich-based firm was £1.2 million for a modern two-storey office development in Woodgate Valley, near Halesowen.

The 26,015 sq ft property, Sterling Park, Clapgate Lane, has been sold by Holloway Properties to Cravendale Properties.

James Mattin, Bond Wolfe managing partner, said: "This is a good example of the investment stock that Bond Wolfe has had great success selling in 2018."

"We are experiencing major interest in multi-let, strong secondary locations, with good transport links."

"This kind of yield represents good value for investors looking for a return on their investments."

Last week, Bond Wolfe announced a private investor had snapped up a Birmingham residential development opportunity at a former health care centre at Ladywood Middleway, which was on the market for £1.3m.

Bus travel on tap with contactless

BUS passengers in the West Midlands can now pay for any journey they take with National Express with just a tap of their bank card.

After decades of only accepting exact change, every one of the bus company's 1,600 buses now accepts contactless payments. Passengers only have to tap their card and the machine works out the exact cost.

Managing director of National Express West Midlands Tom Stables said: "Now our customers won't even have to work out what ticket they need. They can just tap a bank card on the reader and it will work out the fare for them. The first tap pays for one trip. Then, however many more trips you make that day, you will never be charged more than an adult day ticket."

Stout first prize for Blackheath brewery

A BLACKHEATH brewery has won the title for best stout in the West Midlands. The Campaign for Real Ale competition was held at the opening session of the 43rd Wolverhampton Beer and Cider Festival. Blackheath Stout from the Fixed Wheel Brewery was judged best.

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Trust aims to recover £20k after over paying

MORE than £175,000 has been over-paid to employees who have left Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust in the last three years.

A Freedom of Information request showed that 105 overpayments were made to employees from the Trust between 2015 and 2018 – totalling £175,092.37. Of the overpayments made to the ex-employees, £154,467.90 has been recovered but £20,624.47 is still outstanding.

Chief executive of the Dudley trust, Diane Wake, said they are still in process of recovering some of the money.

In the financial year of 2015/2016, 31 overpayments were made to employees totalling £60,828.78, which has since all been recovered. The following year, 2016/2017, there was 33 overpayments made to the value of £48,539.86 – with £13,545.50 still outstanding. In 2017/2018 there was 41 overpayments of £65,723.73, with £7,078.97 yet to be paid back.

Mrs Wake said: “All staff who have an overpayment of salary, whether they are still on the payroll or have left the trust, are invoiced for the overpayment. The debt for each member of staff is monitored and recovered by the finance team as per the debt recovery processes for the trust. Staff pay the debt in full or in instalments, depending on personal circumstances.

“Overpayment can occur for a number of reasons.”

Tenants can join online home swap

TENANTS wanting to move can now sign up to a free online home-swap scheme – and search from thousands of properties across the country.

Dudley Council recently joined the national HomeSwapper scheme, the UK's largest online mutual exchange service for social housing tenants.

It means Dudley's tenants, who want to move and remain in social rented accommodation, can now register for free and search for a potential new home in the borough or further afield. There are currently 500,000 tenants registered nationwide.

Last year 58 Dudley tenants chose to swap their home with seven relocating outside of the borough. To register for free, visit www.homeswapper.co.uk.

Church evensong

A SUMMER choral evensong service will be held at St Paul's Church, Long Lane, Blackheath, next Saturday (June 24) at 4.30pm. Friends of St Paul's will be joining the church choir.

Village's scarecrow festival cancelled



No scarecrow festival this summer

A POPULAR scarecrow festival held at a village near Halesowen has been cancelled with organisers citing financial problems as the main reason.

Belbroughton Scarecrow Festival, which sees an abundance of hand-made scarecrows dotted across the village, raises money for various charities and has attracted up to 30,000 visitors to the Worcestershire village.

Last year it was named the best event of its kind in the UK, but just this week organisers announced it has been cancelled for 2018.

In a statement on its website organisers said: “Whilst we understand that this will be a huge disappointment to our community the hope is that we can come back with a festival in 2019.

We have earmarked the 21-22nd September 2019 as an option. However, for this to happen we require more backing and support from the village to ensure that our community assets continue to benefit from this fantastic long-standing event.”

An email address chair@belbroughtonscarecrow.co.uk was included in case anyone had any comments, suggestions or ideas. Later,

the festival's Facebook page then uploaded a photo featuring the words ‘Sorry, the 2018 event has been cancelled. We will be back in 2019’.

Comments on Facebook ranged from sympathetic to critical of the festival committee's decision. Emma Sadler said: “Maybe if you explained on the Facebook post why it's been cancelled people would react better.” Dan White added: “We travel from Northamptonshire to visit the festival. Sorry to hear is not on this year but we look forward to attending in 2019.”

Heroes tell of pride over Queen's birthday awards

EXTRAORDINARY people across Dudley borough have been honoured and celebrated in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

A volunteer blood bike rider David Pearce from Cradley Heath said he was ‘absolutely stunned’ when he heard he had received a BEM (British Empire Medal).

The 44-year-old father is a trustee and volunteer rider for Midland Freewheelers Blood Bikes Charity and was granted the honour for voluntary and charitable services to healthcare.

David said: “It’s absolutely fantastic. It’s still taking a while to sink in.”

Vital

As well as his vital work transporting blood, medication, breast milk and chemotherapy drugs, David is also operations manager at Birmingham Criminal Justice Centre, a coach to the under 14s Old Halesonians rugby team and a dog foster carer.

Nurse Katharine Bird from Stourbridge was also honoured, and said she was ‘delighted and extremely proud’ to receive an MBE (Member of the British Empire).

The 35-year-old works for Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and was honoured for the work she has done to help improve the lives of vulnerable young women. Katharine said: “This was totally unexpected. My aim is to ensure that the young people in my care have a positive experience of mental health services and that they are supported through their journey on the way to recovery. I dedicate this award to everyone in our team and to the young people that we care for. Seeing the young people make progress is the reward in itself.”

PC Hubert ‘Hughie’ Treasure, aged 50 from Dudley, has been awarded an MBE for his work with young people. PC Treasure has been a young persons officer in Sandwell for four years.

Sylvia Holmes, of Stourbridge, chief executive officer of Economic Growth Solution, received an MBE for services to the economy. Historian Terry Price, age 79, was awarded a BEM for his services to his community. Mr Price was the driving force behind the stone tribute to 1940s actress Madeleine Carroll, who was born locally, in West Bromwich.



Bloodbike volunteer rider David Pearce



PC Hughie Treasure helps young people



Nurse Katharine Bird from Stourbridge



Black Country historian Terry Price

NEWS IN BRIEF

£37,000 is raised by hospice lottery

MORE than £37,000 has been raised for Mary Stevens Hospice through its weekly lottery.

Thousands of tickets have been snapped up for the hospice summer draw, which gives players the chance to win up to £5,000.

The lottery helps to raise money for the hospice, which serves Stourbridge, Dudley and Halesowen.

Lottery manager Diane Moore said: “Our lottery players make such a wonderful contribution to the hospice each week and our care simply wouldn’t be possible without each and every one of them. This draw is always a huge source of excitement.”

A second assisted living centre opens

AN assisted living centre has been officially opened in Quarry Bank for people with disabilities and health issues by Dudley Council adult care boss Councillor Nicolas Barlow.

The centre, in Cider Avenue, will provide people with access to information about equipment and support for the home. The one-stop shop for advice and information has rooms designed to replicate a traditional home for people trying out equipment that helps with independent living.

The centre is the second in the borough with the other in Coseley.

Museum's vintage vehicle cavalcade

FAMOUS marques including Austin, Bean, Jensen and Sunbeam, will be on show during the Festival of Black Country Vehicles at the Black Country Living Museum on Sunday.

The region's proud motor manufacturing heritage will be celebrated at the Tipton Road museum with a cavalcade of classic cars, motorcycles, commercial vehicles and bicycles, most made in the Black Country.

See the bclm.co.uk website for further details about this special Father's Day event, which features vehicles dating back to 1913.

Choral concerts are in aid of air ambulance

BLACKHEATH Central Community Choir will be singing to raise money for the Midlands Air Ambulance at Blackheath Central Methodist Church next month.

The choir will be in concert at the High Street venue with a 2pm performance on Monday, July 16, and a 7pm concert on Saturday, July 21.

Admission is £5 for the charity events and refreshments will be available at both concerts.

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Hospice fundraising Neon Run put back a week to avoid clash

MARY Stevens Hospice fundraisers have announced that the annual Neon Night Run at Himley Hall will now be on September 28, a week later than originally scheduled.

As well as being the original date penned for the Neon-themed night run which attracts more than a thousand to Himley Hall each year, September 21 is also the start date of Dubs Collective's three-day Party in the Park Volkswagen festival. Due to the increasing scale of that event, which has had thousands of ticket sales, plus growing interest in the hospice's 80s themed Neon Night Run, both parties have decided that moving the charity fun run would be a good idea.

MP calls for expansion of Brum airport

A BLACK Country MP has urged the Government to boost growth in the West Midlands by expanding Birmingham International Airport.

Ian Austin, Dudley North MP, said the decision to back a new runway at Heathrow Airport would ensure the bulk of investment and new jobs would go to the south-east rather than the Midlands. He called on Transport Secretary Chris Grayling to consider a second runway at Birmingham if the Government is serious about boosting growth in the regions.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr Austin said: "For all the talk of balanced economic growth and boosting the regions, it's the same old story with the bulk of the investment, the spending, the jobs and the benefits always all in London and the south-east."

All runners who have already signed up to take part in the charity event are being offered a free one-day pass to the VW festival and are being advised to contact the hospice fundraising team to take advantage of that offer.

Dubs Collective will also be sponsoring the Neon Night Run and have committed to working in partnership with the hospice on future events.

Flourish

Hospice head of fundraising Charlotte Schofield said: "This is not a decision we've taken lightly, however, given the ever-increasing scale of both our Neon Night Run and Dubs' Party in the Park, we have decided that it is in the best interest of our supporters and their festival goers that we move back a week so that both events can flourish."

"Dubs Collective and Himley Hall have been collaborative and we are delighted that the organising team at Dubs Collective have become highly engaged with our work."

To sign up online, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/neon-night-run-2018

Business forges ahead at awards night



Thomas Dudley Foundry took home the coveted award for best use of technology, presented by Altodigital

THE business community across the Black Country came together for the Express & Star Business Awards 2018.

There was also a boost for charity with more than £2,000 raised by donations on the night for the Midland Freewheelers blood bikes group. More than 400 attended the eleven

award event at Wolverhampton Racecourse, compered by Alan Dedicoat, TV's voice of Strictly Come Dancing and the National Lottery.

Thomas Dudley Foundry, founded in 1920 and based at Birmingham New Road, Dudley, took home the coveted award for best use of technology.

Petford Group, which has toolmaking and injection moulding factories in Dudley and Lye, triumphed in the small to medium-sized business category. Manufacturing champion was Midland Tool and Design, Tipton, as a fine example of a traditional business embracing modern practices.

Services to move after hospital delay

HOSPITAL patients will have to travel to Birmingham for some services due to the delay in building the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital.

Some services will be shifted to City Hospital from next year to help ease the pressure on Sandwell General.

Health bosses have been forced to make fresh plans with the Midland Met now not expected to open until 2022 at the earliest. Work on the new hospital stalled following the collapse of Wolverhampton-based contractor Carillion.

The Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, said it was not yet known which services will move but chief executive Toby Lewis said A&E would not be affected.

Mr Lewis told the Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board, which is made up of leading councillors and NHS chiefs, some acute hospital services would have to transfer to City Hospital in 2019 'in order to sustain services'.

Crisis

The Midland Met was originally due to open in October this year but was hit by a series of delays before the collapse of Carillion sparked a full-blown crisis. It is not known when work will restart and it is now due to open in 2022 at the earliest.

Concerns over the ability of Sandwell General to cope for four more years than originally planned has led to chiefs deciding to switch some services.

The total of jobs lost following the collapse Carillion is more than 2,350, new figures show.

The Official Receiver reported that almost 12,000 jobs have been saved - two thirds of the pre-liquidation workforce - after another 215 transferred to new employers. A further 1,129 employees have left the business to find other work or retire.

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Firms among the best for export growth

THREE companies in the Black Country have made it into a list of the top 200 in the UK for fastest growth of international sales.

The ninth annual Sunday Times HSBC International Track 200 league table ranks Britain's mid-market private companies.

This year 21 companies headquartered in the Midlands have made the table. Their international sales have grown by an average of 62 per cent a year over the last two years to a total of £1.3 billion and together they now employ more than 10,600 people.

Dudley's Boss Design, which employs 265, has risen from a ranking of 154th in 2017 to 119th. The office furniture manufacturer has seen growth of 42 per cent with international sales of £13.8 million out of £41.4m in total for 2016-2017. It has designed seating and tables for Etihad's airport lounges around the world.

Metal product manufacturer Hadley Group in Smethwick is a new entrant in 164th place with growth of 32 per cent. The company that employs 603 had international sales of £45.8m out of a total of £127.7m in 2016-2017. Its products will be used in the construction of zero-carbon Masdar City in Abu Dhabi.

Sauce maker Panesar Foods in Tipton is also a new entrant in 186th with growth of 28 per cent.

Cornbow classics

PEOPLE are being invited to attend an evening of classical music. Halesowen Orchestra are performing a host of classical pieces at Cornbow Hall on July 7 from 7.30pm until 9.30pm to entertain lovers of the genre.

Tickets cost £10 and can be bought on the door, or to secure seats in advance call 01210 550956.

Appeal cash for groups supporting young people

Father and son face mountain challenge



Michelle Davies and Amy Kelly, both from Candidate Source, with Rhys, Anthony Cokeley and his daughter Ffion that will transport Rhys up the final mountain so he can complete his own challenge.

Anthony Cokeley, 32, a manager with Dudley CVS, is looking to raise more than £2,500 for Pens Meadow Parent Outreach Service.

The school is helping his son Rhys with his cerebral palsy and complex

learning needs. Anthony will take on the UK's highest three mountains in just four days, starting with Ben Nevis on June 20, followed by Scafell Pike and Snowdon.

Fundraising efforts are being backed by friends, teachers and Coleshill-based Candidate Source. The online recruitment agency has donated £1,000 to help with purchasing equipment including a Deuter Kid Carrier

that will transport Rhys up the final mountain so he can complete his own challenge.

To find out more visit www.go-fundme.com/Pens-Meadow

TWO groups that work to help young people have been awarded more than £43,000 in funding from BBC Children in Need.

The groups, Christ Church and Smethwick Pakistani Muslims Association Ltd, work with disadvantaged children and young people across Sandwell. Both organisations aim to help young people escape difficult pasts or upbringings and prepare for the future.

The investment from BBC Children in Need brings the total invested in Sandwell to more than £1 million.

Christ Church, The Parish Church in Quinton, has been awarded a three-year grant of £14,778 to provide youth group sessions to disadvantaged children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.

Through arts and crafts the project aims to support the young people involved to regain their self-confidence whilst having fun.

Reverend Rachel Heathfield said: "All of the children and young people in our project have escaped from a situation involving abuse."

Guidance

"For many of the children this affects their self-confidence which could impact their futures."

She added: "By providing them with support and guidance we are able to make a real difference to their lives, so a huge thank you to BBC Children in Need for their support."

Smethwick Pakistani Muslims Association Ltd has been awarded a three-year grant of £29,040 to provide a sports programme for disadvantaged young people. The project is aiming to increase the young people's physical activity whilst providing them with access to safe spaces and encouraging them to make informed life choices.

Bank closure is blow to High Street

BANKING giant Lloyds has been accused of contributing to the 'degeneration' of a high street by closing the last bank in Brierley Hill.

The branch is set to shut in July, despite a petition signed by more than 1,300 people. It has led to fears the closure could impact on the future of nearby businesses. The decision follows the closure of other banks in the town, including Barclays and HSBC.

The petition was supported by traders and shoppers and it was hoped it would prompt a U-turn by Lloyds.

Prue Warne, one of the campaign leaders, said: "Brierley Hill High Street is degenerating on a daily basis and now we are losing the last bank on the High Street. If it closes they are knowingly adding to that degeneration." Lloyds stated: "We do not take these decisions lightly and we are currently reviewing the letter we have received from local residents."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Not just a store but a part of our fabric

FAREWELL to Beatties, then. It seems incredible to even write these words. Just 15 years ago, that would have been inconceivable. Back then, Beatties was not just a store, it was part of the fabric of the Midlands, a throwback to a bygone age when shopping was all about personal service and individuality.

And then House of Fraser came along. The Beatties name, which carried so much weight in the Midlands, was casually discarded on all but two of the stores because it "lacked resonance" with the corporate bods in London. The famous restaurant, which pulled in so many customers on a Saturday lunchtime, became a self-service cafe. Its quirky and distinctive clothing ranges were replaced with drab own-brand lines pretty much the same as in any other chainstore.

In short, they bought Grace Brothers. And turned it into BHS.

The sad thing is that recently Beatties showed signs of getting some of its mojo back. Just little touches, such as the man on the door in the top hat. It made Beatties feel like, well, Beatties again.

It looks like being too little too late, with the eye-watering business rates being a major factor in Beatties imminent demise. Reportedly, it had been paying something like £500,000 every year on the Wolverhampton store, which now seems a bit like killing the goose that laid the golden egg. Of course, business rates are set by national government, it still remains the case that an empty building won't generate much for the public coffers.

Perhaps it is time to re-think the way business rates are calculated. How can it be right that our beleaguered towns and cities, which are the lifeblood of cohesive communities, are being decimated by crippling rates, while out-of-town retail parks and online-shopping warehouses, are let off practically scot-free?

Surely these out-of-the way locations, which lead to more car journeys and heavy-lorry movements, place more of a strain on our infrastructure – and indeed the environment – than the traditional high street?

There may have once been an argument, in the days when a prime town centre location was a licence to print money, for charging extra in rates. But as out-of-town warehouses suck the life out of our towns and cities, this surely no longer holds water.

It is time for the internet giants and the out-of-town retailers to pay their way, and give our town centres a bit of respite.

Otherwise, a generation from now, we might look back at what we have lost. And wonder how we ever allowed this to happen.

Leaving out one word can be deeply misleading



2018 abortion referendum – I hope historians give full credit to Father Ted



No croaker – Scottish actor Daisy Haggard in real life actually talks normally



Meera Syal – right decision to study drama rather than medicine as her parents wanted

Why I'm against language trend

I'VE no idea what some folk have against the word "against" but it seems to be passing out of our language. The trend began in the United States where defendants routinely "appeal the verdict" or "protest the legislation." Over here, I found a newspaper report about a controversial forestry plan where local people "protested the felling."

IT gets worse. A radio report on the BBC told us about activists "demonstrating land seizures" when they were actually demonstrating against land seizures. Leaving out one little word is not only lazy but can be deeply misleading. I am very much against it. Or in modern usage, I am very much *into* JOB opportunities in the movies. The interminable credits for the time-travel romp *Outlander* (Sony Pictures TV) reveal that the production team includes a "dimmer board operator." If they paid better wages they might get a brighter one.

I WROTE recently about the hazards of 'smart' devices scanning the contents of our fridges and suggesting tasty menus using whatever we have in stock. My fear was that 'artificial intelligence' (now, there's an oxymoron) may not understand that we humans keep some non-food items in the fridge, including contact-lens solution and suchlike. A reader draws us into grimmer territory: "I currently have a tube of ointment for an anal fissure. Recipe suggestions, please?" Offhand, I can only think of wince pies.

THE Royal math from Bishop Curry's sermon at the Royal Wedding rumbles on. A reader takes me to task for being underwhelmed and encourages me to obey the bit about loving everybody, including my neighbours and my enemies. It has always struck me, even in my chapel-going

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



days, that love was rather a powerful and extreme emotion to lavish upon all and sundry. If you love your enemy what are you supposed to feel for your parents, your spouse or your children? I love my nearest and dearest. I respect, tolerate, admire or dislike the rest of humanity, depending entirely on how they behave.

"THERE are many more people alive today because I didn't become a doctor." Writer and actor Meera Syal on her decision to study drama at university rather than medicine as her parents wanted.

HAVE you ever thought what a happier world this would be if we were all tucked up in bed at 10pm? The recent crop of deeply defamatory tweets and texts horrifying America were mostly sent in the wee small hours and have been blamed variously on medication or tiredness. No surprises there. Most of the vitriolic messages that plunk into my in-box are sent after midnight and sometimes carry tell-tale hints of being booze or medicine-related. Nothing brings out the fearless critic in Joe Public quite like four pints of lager and a nasal spray.

I WAS astonished to find 'zombie knives' on open sale on Google News pages referring to the Croydon knife attack. I left it 24 hours – plenty of time to take down such adverts – and looked again. This time, the two genuine zombie knives were joined by an advert for a £2.79 'Blood-stained screamer knife'. It turns out to

be an accessory toy for Halloween. So that's all right, then.

A YOUNGOV survey of 20,000 people found that youngsters are less likely to feel proud of being English than older people. I'm surprised because today's over-60s grew up in an age when Englishness was barely mentioned. Back then, we were all British. Then Scottish nationalism kicked off and the reaction south of the border was a sort of Englishness that goes with tattoos, football and owning unpleasant dogs. Being British was always wiser, kinder and more inclusive than being English and there is life, and pride, in old GB yet.

IRELAND voted for abortion because Ireland no longer does what the Catholic Church tells it to do. That change is partly due to scandals involving dodgy priests and sadistic nuns but also to a rare comic creation who, on a weekly basis, mercilessly mocked the institution. When the historians write about the 2018 abortion referendum, I hope they give full credit to Father Ted.

SO. Having gotten used to one American import, namely the starting of sentences with 'so', a reader points out a new irritation, namely the female frog-croak. As he puts it: "It is the Americanism of drifting the end of sentences into a deep croak. Our youngsters are taking this on board at an ever increasing rate. 'Can't argue with that. Yet some Brits must share the blame. A croaker-in-chief is Myra, the humourless American head of comedy in Episodes (BBC2), and yet she is played by the Scottish actor Daisy Haggard who in real life talks normally."

TALKING POINT



Goal? Oh no I just popped out for a lolly!

IS it really four years since the last one? Yes it's the World Cup – again! This time, as much has been said about the off-field developments as how good, or bad, any particular country will fare on the pitch.

Which is interesting, as it occurred to me that the more World Cups I live through, the less I remember about the football. I recalled a number of occasions which stand out, going all the way back to England's finest moment – 1966.

Yes, I was as excited as anyone by the extra-time victory over West Germany, and yes I breathed a sigh of relief that our ancient Ekco television stayed on all the way through the tournament.

But England's quarter-final match is notable for the fact that on hearing the chimes of the ice cream van down the street, I nipped out for an ice lolly, taking advantage of the fact that although he had been sent off for dissent, Argentina's Antonio Rattin refused to leave the pitch. No problem, Rattin was still arguing with the ref when I returned. He finally gave in NINE minutes after being dismissed.

Sixteen years later, timing was crucial again. Having gone out for the day while on holiday in Wales, I was unaware I would get back to the caravan after England had kicked off against France.

Imagine my surprise, when popping into a farm for a pint of milk, to be greeted by "Such excitement, England have scored!" And that from a farmer's wife with the broadest Welsh accent I've ever heard. It turned out Bryan Robson had scored after 27 seconds to send England on their way to a famous 3-1 victory.

Then in 1990, the whistle could not come soon enough – the final between Argentina and West Germany, again while I was on holiday, this time in the Yorkshire Dales.

The reason? England had been knocked out in a semi-final penalty shoot-out by West Germany and my only way of dealing with the hurt was to turn my back on the TV during the final.

Fast forward to 2010 and while changing trains on the way back from a family function, I became aware that although I was listening to the commentary at ear-splitting volume on my personal radio, and England were seconds away from going through to the knockout stage, everyone around me carried on as if they'd never heard of the World Cup. Perhaps it was something to do with my being at Edinburgh's Haymarket station!

So, this time, whatever's happening on the pitch, don't hesitate to go and do some shopping or even just turn the TV off. Chances are, you won't miss a thing, but there again . . .

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Recalling torrential rainfall of the 60s

THE last week or so of May 1968 produced a sequence of torrential rainfalls across the Midlands.

Spring, with the average rainfall, is the driest quarter of the year. However the last three Mays of the 1960s were far and wide of one of the wettest months of their entire years –1967 tripled its normal rainfall, 1968 doubled its defined expectation of rain and 1969 with the persistent anomaly had triple the usual supply of precipitation.

On one Friday evening up to over two inches of rain descended in the vicinity of Stourbridge backed up by lightning and thunder. Some of the intense showers were extremely localised which led to short distance contrasts.

One day in that memorable May I was just about to step on a bus at Brierley Hill to go to Stourbridge when a brief but very intense shower close to noon asserted its drenching contents and the gutters were flowing like broad rivers.

Within less than three minutes I had travelled the few hundred yards to Silver End where the gutters and pavements were completely dry.

There was no sign of the threat of any rain in the vicinity. As regards the wettest day on record for Stourbridge for any time of the year that is ranked as the May 31, 1924 when 3.73 inches of rain fell and a weir upon the Stourbridge canal was broken by the onslaught of the resultant torrents. June 1924 opened with widespread flooding along the river Severn which affected agriculture in many adjacent fields.

We can, however, thank those prolific spring downpours for the enhanced greenery of the countryside.

ALASTAIR MACLEAN
Stourbridge

Parents must set example

AS a ‘taycher’ (as they say round here) with 40 odd years experience in primary, secondary and special education, I find it both annoying and ironic that the two problems most frequently laid at the door of schools – littering and bullying – are the two issues schools spend most time, effort and money striving to eliminate.

Peter Rhodes, fresh from his holiday on the bonnie litter-strewn banks of Loch Lomond, questions how many hours it takes in the classroom to convey the message: “Don’t drop that”.

His question, displaying both unwarranted sarcasm and the classic layman’s ignorance, would be more pertinent if the word ‘classroom’ were replaced with the word ‘home’.

The most effective tutor is example. In all my years I can honestly say that I never saw a taycher drop litter but I doubt very much whether the same could be said of parents.

MR B WILLIAMS
Wordsley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Brexit date looks wildly optimistic

IT is now becoming obvious that Brexit negotiations are not going well. Leave voters understood we would get a completely clean break from the EU in March 2019. It is clear this date is wildly optimistic.

Mrs May was told at a meeting with the Japanese ambassador and some of his country’s leading businessmen that if the UK walked away with a no-deal, and their companies being forced to pay tariffs on exports to the EU – affecting their profitability – then it was likely these companies would move their production facilities from the UK to the continent. As they directly employ 130,000 in the UK, but are responsible for providing many more jobs in the supply chain, the effect on our economy could be disastrous.

PETER SIMPSON
Dudley

I try best to by-pass the by-pass

THERE are plans for a bypass around the Black Country.

If it ever happens, can I please ask that the architects/planners that are chosen not be the ones who made the Brierley Hill bypass.

We were told it would keep Brierley Hill moving. I have never seen a more pathetic attempt at causing havoc – seven sets of traffic lights, a yellow box that nearly everyone blocks, a ‘No Left Turn’ that is disregarded.

Furthermore, this bypass must now have the most dangerous junction in the country, where turning right and going straight on causes so much frustration and near-misses. It’s a wonder serious injury or death have not taken place.

‘Keep Brierley Hill moving’, what a laugh. I try my best to bypass the bypass.

PETE LOWE
Brierley Hill

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Patients are turned away as IT failure causes chaos

NEARLY 150 hospital appointments were cancelled when IT systems went down at a Black Country hospital trust.

Sandwell Hospital was plunged into chaos on two days last week, forcing 147 medical appointments to be cancelled at short notice.

The IT failure, which was blamed on an 'unplanned internal update' and resulted in staff having to revert to paper-based methods to order tests and results, crippled the trust, which also runs Birmingham City Hospital, and meant many patients had to be turned away.

Bosses apologised for the issues which put computer systems out of action.

Rachel Barlow, chief operating officer at the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, said: "An unplanned IT internal update caused a number of our IT systems to fail, and meant we had to revert to business continuity plans including paper based ordering of tests and results."

"This slowed our service significantly over two days last week, and to ensure safe care for all patients unfortunately we had to cancel 147 appointments at short notice."

"These patients have all been re-booked and we apologise to every patient who was affected."

Trust chief executive Toby Lewis pledged to have all the affected patients seen during June.

A planned introduction of a new electronic patient records system, called Unity, designed to free up more time for doctors, has been put on hold following last week's failure. Mr Lewis said in a report to board members: "The board will recognise that this makes it impossible to achieve the Unity go-live date of August."

Model feels vindicated after kidnapper is jailed

"I know it's a bizarre story but it's a true one."

Those were the words of model Chloe Ayling's lawyer after a man from the Black Country was jailed in Italy for kidnapping her and holding her captive for six days.

It was a remarkable tale which could have been taken from the script of a suspense movie. Played out in a rural Italian village, the crime would eventually be traced back to the Black Country.

Ms Ayling said she was snatched after being lured to a fake modelling shoot in Milan before being bundled into the boot of a car and held at a remote farmhouse. Lukasz Herba, aged 30, from Tivdale, was jailed for nearly 17 years after being convicted of kidnapping the model by an Italian court.

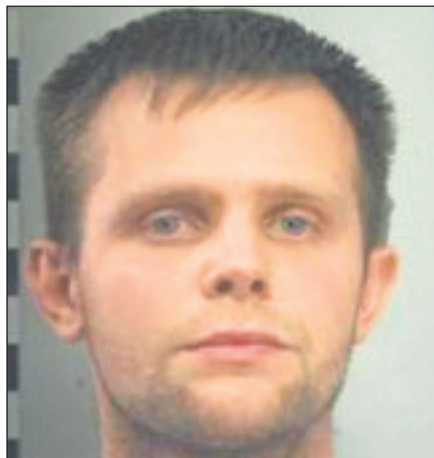
Innocence

Following the hearing the 20-year-old from south London said she felt 'vindicated' by the verdict after she had been accused of staging the kidnap to become famous.

Polish-born Herba had been living at a block of flats in Tivdale, which was raided by police after the case made international headlines. He had pleaded his innocence by claiming the model was in on the plot all along.

But the case was taken very seriously by police and courts in Italy, so seriously that Herba was last week locked up for 16 years and nine months.

Authorities there said that after attending for what she thought was a modelling opportunity, the young model was drugged and taken to rural



Lukasz Herba, from Tivdale, jailed for nearly 17 years

Piedmont where she was kept in a farmhouse and handcuffed to furniture.

Herba was said by authorities to have been acting for a group which sells women as sex slaves on the 'dark web' to buyers in the Middle East.

Ms Ayling said she feared for her life during her six-day ordeal after being told she would be killed if she did not co-operate.

Eventually, she was released to the British consulate.

Lawyers acting for Herba had suggested the kidnap was a stunt



Model Chloe Ayling, who was held captive for six days

dreamed up to boost Ms Ayling's career. The model appeared on several TV shows in the weeks following their ordeal to tell her story.

Her agent Adrian Singleton said: "This has been an incredible burden on her shoulders for the last year in the face of media criticism of her motivation and this is vindication - her story is true. Now she can get on with her life."

"One of the difficulties with a psychopath and a narcissist, as Mr Herba is, is that he behaves in such a way that it's almost impossible to believe

that someone could be so stupid and so, in some ways, it's not surprising that the media found Chloe's story difficult to believe."

"Let's not forget she was bundled into a suitcase, injected with ketamine in the boot of a car and thought she was going to die."

The lawyer for Ms Ayling, Francesco Pesce, said he would seek half a million Euro (£438,000) in compensation in separate proceedings, while conceding it was unlikely that Herba would be able to pay.

NEWS IN BRIEF

School visited by video star Katie

Q3 ACADEMY Langley, in Oldbury, played host to YouTube star Katie Pix in an effort to create a short film for the 'Get Into Teaching Campaign', exploring the rewards teaching can offer.

Local teacher Josh Anderson, a friend of the YouTube vlogger, also played a part in the six-minute video, in which he outlines his reasons for choosing to teach and his passion for the job. Katie started her channel in September 2015 earning over a million total video views, and uploads cookery videos.

View the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWwQ6e-YfYI

Man threatened by carjacker pair

A MAN was threatened by two men with a baseball bat who then stole his car in Bearwood.

The man was delivering food to a house in Galton Road when he was approached by the pair. They threatened him and demanded his car keys at around 10.15pm on June 5.

The man handed over his keys - and the two offenders drove off in a black Audi Q5 and the victim's white Volkswagen Golf. Anyone with information about the carjacking is asked to call police on 101, quoting crime reference 20SW/125431F/18.

New date set for Demi Lovato Arena concert

AMERICAN pop star Demi Lovato's Birmingham gig on her Tell Me You Love Me Tour, which was due to take place this week, has been rescheduled for June 29. Swollen vocal chords forced the star to postpone the show at Arena Birmingham. All tickets will remain valid for the new date.

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No more quick fix on transport, say bosses

TRANSPORT bosses have insisted they no longer want to use a quick 'sticky plaster approach' when it comes to dealing with congested motorways in the West Midlands.

Leading business figures met at Little Pot Transport in Oldbury last week to discuss future plans for the region's roads, after it was revealed transport group Midlands Connect is considering building a new 40-mile motorway around the Black Country.

The 'Western Strategic Route' would connect the M5 Junction 4a at Bromsgrove with Junction 2 of the M54, near the i54 business park.

It's an idea that has been met with concern by many – especially environmental groups who claim the motorway would plough straight through greenbelt countryside.

Comprehensive

But director of Midlands Connect Maria Machancoses said issues concerning the region's roads cannot be ignored for much longer.

Ms Machancoses said: "One third of the national freight goes through the Midlands so we need to look at this in a much more balanced, comprehensive way. We need to do far more work, more analysis, and look at wider economic benefits and environment benefits."

"But we've got to do the work, we cannot just ignore things. We need to look at long term. What we're hoping to do is give certainty to everyone in the Midlands. We need to make sure that we look at a wide range of issues. This is all about giving a clear message, a clear vision to the world



Black Country Chamber chairman Corin Crane, Maria Machancoses, director of Midlands Connect and Julian Pottinger, director of Little Pot Transport

out there that we can no longer use a sticky plaster approach to resolving the problems of our motorways and congestion."

The report says the route would offer 'the biggest benefit' for improving journey times and supporting economic growth, and could reduce traffic on stretches of the M6 and M5 by one fifth.

Chief executive of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce Corin Crane agreed something 'ambitious' needed to be done to solve some of the congestion problems the region was facing. He said: "Look at the Black Country – we are 36,000 businesses crammed into a small area. We move stuff and

we make stuff. We've got twice the national average of manufacturing companies, huge amounts of food and drink companies and we have to get our stuff to ports and to businesses all across the area – and that's what makes the Midlands so incredible. We're right smack middle of the country."

Julian Pottinger, of Little Pot Transport said he thought the Western Strategic Route was a 'good idea' and said it would provide relief for the Black Country.

He said: "When one road becomes congested due to road works or congestion it just snarls up the rest of the region, there's no spare capacity."

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Fashioning up help to recreate clothes shop

MUSEUM bosses wants people to fashion up memories of a popular clothes shop.

The Black Country Living Museum is recreating the Wednesbury-based women's fashion shop, E. Minnett, as it was in the late 1950s, as part of its BCLM: Forging Ahead project.

Founded by Edith Dabbs Minnett, the shop was known as the place to go for the best dressed ladies of Wednesbury. Edith started the business in the 1920s in the front room of the family home in Pound Road – before opening the shop at 83 Walsall Street.

Minnett's was a family-run business. Edith's husband, William, managed the shop's accounts around the time of the birth of their daughter Brenda.

Brenda worked at the shop from a young age, earning three pence a week by dusting boxes and assisting with other day-to-day tasks. She became employed full-time when she left school and took over with her husband John Greenhough, and ran the business until it ceased trading in 2006.

The shop's clothes were bought on mail order from trade catalogues or from wholesalers in Birmingham. Brenda prided herself on buying garments in advance for particular customers she had in mind and who she knew would buy the item when they saw what she had chosen for them.

The Tipton Road Museum will be recreating the shop from Walsall Street, which will be set up in the late 1950s era. On opening in 2022, visitors will be able to learn the story of the post-war revolution in female fashion, as well as the changing role of women in society and the economic boom.

To help with the recreation, the museum is seeking memories and personal stories of the shop. Email collections@bclm.com or call 0121 557 9643.



The E Minnett in Walsall Street, Wednesbury, which is being rebuilt

Nun better than this show

REVIEW: Sister Act the Musical presented by Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society

QUARRY Bank Musical Theatre Society brought the house down at Brierley Hill Town Hall.

Debutant Keshia Herbert wowed as Deloris Van Cartier, a sassy nightclub singer who witnesses a murder committed by her gangster boyfriend and his hoods and needs to go on the run.

Tom Robinson was in fine voice as her old pal Sweaty Eddie, a policeman, who hides her in a convent. Elaysia

Stretton was demure and affable as Sister Mary Robert and Natalie Baggett as Sister Mary Lazarus was the ideal scene stealing comedy nun.

Jo Tranter, Sister Mary Theresa, retained her aged character perfectly throughout.

Sheila Wood as Mother Superior was the perfect holy sister, while Carl Cook, Mike James, David Shaw and Ollie Hart-Bradford took their roles with aplomb as Curtis and his grubby little gang of sleaze ball 70s gangsters.

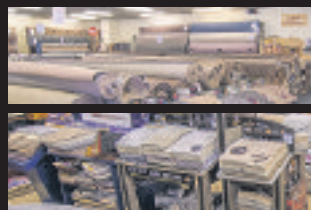
By Alison Norton

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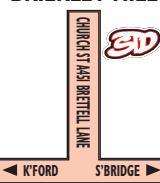
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Lots of love for china among the bidders

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



SOME nice pieces of china proved to be amongst the bidders' favourites at our June auction, with a number of items selling well.

Royal Albert Old Country Rose continues to be hugely popular, Spode and Moorcroft are still up there with the good sellers and this month we also saw some Lladro figures attract considerable attention.

Items of note sold included: Group of four Lladro figures (sold for £100, estimate £100 to £150), Royal Albert Old Country Rose coffee and tea service, plus two small jardinières (£150, £80 to £120), three Beswick equestrian figures (£85, £40 to £60), Samuel Allcock & Sons Royal Patriotic Fund jug (£170, £170 to £250).

Royal Albert Old Country Rose tea and dinner service (£120, £80 to £120), Moorcroft ginger jar with Anna Lily pattern (£90, £50 to £80), Moorcroft globular case (£100, £50 to £80), large collection of Spode Italian pattern blue and white china, 66 pieces (£260, £80 to £100).

Pair of Wurttemberg Metal Factory Art Nouveau figural pewter two-branched candelabra of young girls in flowing robes, WMF number stamped on base (£1,000, £200 to £300), unusual mahogany treen solitaire double-sized board with original clay marbles (£100, £25 to £40).

18 carat gold diamond solitaire ring (£240, £200 to £300), nine carat gold necklace set with five natural amethyst stones with matching bracelet set (£220, £200 to £300), ladies 18 carat gold half hunter pocket watch with enamel Roman numerals by J W Cardwell of Liverpool (£120, £80 to £120).

Art Nouveau lidded hand-wrought brass pot, with original glass liner and decorated with coloured enamels (£880, £100 to £150), taxidermy study of a bird of prey with pigeon quarry in a glass case (£270, £80 to £120), 1860s John Broadwood & Sons boudoir grand piano in mahogany case (£200, £200 to £400), carved and panelled pine settle with box seat (£170, £100 to £150), set of ten large leather-upholstered oak-framed dining chairs (£420, £200 to £300), large oak refectory dining table with carved side panels (£480, £400 to £600), Brown's patent pub table with bell, made for Yates and Greenways of Birmingham (£340, £200 to £300), stripped ash three-piece bedroom suite (£320, £150 to £250), large French bedstead with upholstered headboard and large footboard, with mattress rail (£300, £300 to £500).

*** The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, August 7, from 10.30am. Viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk**



Thank you for the music – and keep it coming!



Summer festivals attract thousands

MUSIC is a magnet.

We recently had a family get together, ages from 25 to 80, sitting in the garden as the sun slowly dropped behind the horizon and the fire pit crackled and warmed, we set up the speaker to serenade us as the evening drew to a close.

But what to play with such a wide and varied group of people was up for great discussion.

My son suggested we all chose a couple of tunes that he would input to his phone and keep everyone happy.

It was an eye opener, classic songs from every era but incredibly recognised by all.

We thought deeply, we talked about bands we had been to see, the albums we owned, our likes and dislikes, music skeletons in the cupboard, we sang and danced and laughed until the early hours.

I came from an era of diversity, a punk with pink hair, and watched bands play in pubs and clubs with no seating and no stage. It followed the disco tracks of Saturday Night Fever and preceded the 80s electronic synthesizers and New Romantics.

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



It was a time to dress up, be different, a complete package.

Music has always brought people together, people who would not normally mix.

It also divides – think about the Brit pop Oasis and Blur, which side were you on?

The absolute joy of seeing your favourite artist, with 25,000 other adoring fans, a tiny dot on a tiny stage but well worth the ticket price of £70 or weekend tickets to a festival where you can see so many of the highly admired.

Photos posted on social media for all to admire and a memory to keep forever. Sadly though many now film the event rather than watch it.

There are the musicals, big bands, house music, indie, Motown, northern soul, dance, metal, rap, the list goes on and it is not something that defines you, I am very often sur-

prised by the favourites of people I meet, not at all what I would expect.

It is so easy now to take our music with us, our phones holding our complete record collection and ready to play whatever suits our mood, headphones, car or speaker Bluetooth.

It is very different from the heavy and cumbersome early record players and vinyls, music then was for home or the local cafe jukebox.

How times have changed.

Children's TV starts with happy catchy tunes, high street shops play music that helps us to buy and the latest TV dramas include music to put us inside the fake small screen tension and we can immediately download it all to listen again later.

It can make us unhappy, cry, laugh, smile, it reminds us, makes us think and motivates us too.

Thank you to all those incredibly talented musicians out there who keep delighting us.

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Banning computer games could alienate your child further



Games like Fortnite can improve hand-eye coordination and boost confidence

How can we stop computer games eroding family life?



Siobhan Freegard, who runs parenting site ChannelMum.

FORTNITE has been a huge hit with youngsters – even most of the England football squad are playing it. But too much screen time can be a worry for mums and dads. Here we seek some expert tips...

The problem: My 14-year-old son is obsessed with the computer game Fortnite – he lies about how long he's been on it, it causes lots of rows, and I keep banning him from using it. What can I do, and is this a problem other parents are having?

Siobhan Freegard, founder of parenting site ChannelMum.com, says: "As the mother of a teen boy, I understand exactly what you're going through. Fortnite is the biggest kids' gaming phenomenon of the decade, so there are always going to be some children whose use is over the top, with our research showing families average 11 arguments a month due to it. "Banning it altogether will cause a

By Lisa Salmon

'Battle Royale' in your home and could alienate your son further, so the key is to stay calm and look at it from your son's point of view.

"Fortnite has become so hugely successful as it's a social game. Unlike old-style video games, which pit players against the console, Fortnite allows up to 100 people to play together, with classmates or children from a local area all working as a team.

"If you ban him from the game, he'll feel excluded from this social group – and that's very upsetting when you're only 14.

"On the positive side, our research found that three in five parents said playing Fortnite has improved their child's hand-eye coordination, while a third admit it's boosted their child's confidence.

"So don't alienate your son by rubbishing what he loves. Instead, talk with him at a quiet time and say you can see the benefits and you're happy for him to play occasionally – but his use must be sensible.

"I'd recommend ensuring he plays within sight and earshot of you, so you can monitor the time he spends on the game, or set a timer so he knows when he has to come off – and stick to it.

"There will be rows at first, but it's better than trying to ban him altogether and see him flout your authority.

"Also, turn his love of the game to your advantage. Get him to do chores to earn cash for 'V-bucks', the game's e-currency.

"And if he behaves well or achieves in school, reward him with extra time on the game. Be smart and it's one battle with your kids you'll win.

"Here are some more tips: Get [children] out and exercising by organising a real-life Fortnite party in your local woods or park. Ask your kids to teach you the dances – they're great for getting in shape.

"And make sure your device is password-protected by you, to stop your kids grabbing extra screen time, and check you don't have a linked credit card for them to buy 'V-bucks' on."

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These legitimate steps must be taken while you are both alive and in reasonably good mental health. It is therefore important for couples to act NOW!

Most of our clients come to us having already made standard Mirror Wills, or they've been meaning to make a Will but simply haven't got around to it. With Property Trust Wills, yourself and your spouse/partner each leave your half share of the home to the children in Trust, but state that they are not to receive it during the lifetime of the surviving spouse/partner.

This half would then NOT be included in any future means test calculations for care fees. The surviving spouse is free to sell their share of the home, raise cash or move house. Your children are powerless to intervene but simply have to wait for their inheritance, as they would have done previously.

“

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2018 WORLD CUP

Russia 2018: FIFA World Cup JUNE 14 - JULY 15

Russia hosts the FIFA World Cup for the first time, but the lowest ranked team in the tournament faces a huge challenge to compete with the world's top footballing powers

RED AMBITION: Russia finished fourth in 1966, as **Soviet Union**, but **Russian Federation** team has yet to qualify from group stage

Performance by host

Group stage	2nd round / Last 16	Quarter-final	3rd/4th	Final	Winner
1	2010	1982, 94, 2002	1938, 54, 70, 86	1962, 90, 2002, 06, 14	1950, 1930, 34, 66, 74, 78, 98

WINNING FEELING: Victory for Germany would equal Brazil's five World Cup crowns and be first successive title win since 1962

Tournament wins: 70

Team	Win ratio	Goals
Brazil	67.3%	66
Germany	62.3%	66
Italy*	54.2%	45
Argentina	54.5%	42
Spain	49.2%	29
France	47.5%	28
Netherlands*	54.0%	27
England	41.9%	26

Joshua Kimmich
New German star, 23, set to shine on world stage after meteoric rise to fame with Bayern Munich

Top goalscorers:
Poland's **Robert Lewandowski** (right) and **Mohammad Al-Sahlawi** of Saudi Arabia both scored 16 goals in qualifying matches

Competition schedule
32 teams contest total of 64 matches, played at 12 venues, over four weeks

1 FIFA rank at time of draw

Group	Teams	Venue
A	Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Uruguay	Moscow, Yekaterinburg
B	Morocco, Portugal, Iran, Spain	St Petersburg, Sochi
C	France, Peru, Denmark, Australia	Kazan, Saransk
D	Argentina, Croatia, Nigeria, Iceland	Moscow, Kalingrad

Venues

- Saint Petersburg Stadium, 67,000
- Moscow: Luzhniki Stadium, Capacity: 80,000
- Spartak Stadium, 45,000
- Yekaterinburg: Ekaterinburg Arena, 35,000
- Kazan: Kazan Arena, 45,000
- Samara: Samara Arena, 45,000
- Volgograd: Volgograd Arena, 45,000
- Sochi: Fisht Olympic Stadium, 48,000
- Rostov: Rostov Arena, 45,000
- Saransk: Mordovia Arena, 44,000
- Nizhny Novgorod: Stadium, 45,000
- Kaliningrad: Stadium, 35,000

Igor Akinfeev
Russia captain and veteran goalkeeper crucial to host nation's hopes - over 100 caps for his country

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June Sochi
 30 A1 B2
 30 C1 D2
 July 2 E1 F2
 2 G1 H2

July 6 Nizhny
 Kazan
 Samara
 Rostov

July 6 Kazan
 St Petersburg

July 10 St Petersburg
 July 14 St Petersburg

Semi-final **FINAL** **Semi-final**

July 15 Moscow
 July 11 Moscow

July 7 Sochi
 July 7 Samara

July 1 B1 A2
 1 D1 C2
 3 F1 E2
 3 H1 G2

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS **Host nation**

1930 Uruguay	4-2	Argentina	Uruguay
1934 Italy	2-1	Czechoslovakia	Italy
1938 Italy	4-2	Hungary	France
1950 Uruguay	2-1	Brazil	Brazil
1954 West Germany	3-2	Hungary	Switzerland
1958 Brazil	5-2	Sweden	Sweden
1962 Brazil	3-1	Czechoslovakia	Chile
1966 England	4-2	West Germany	England
1970 Brazil	4-1	Italy	Mexico
1974 West Germany	2-1	Netherlands	West Germany

Opened in 1956 as **Central Lenin Stadium**, flagship stadium of Communist Russia - hosted 1980 Summer Olympics and Champions League final in 2008

Luzhniki Stadium Capacity: 80,000

Reopened in Nov 2017 after four-year, €350m renovation to expand roof structure, increase capacity and preserve iconic Soviet facade

1978 Argentina 3-1 Netherlands Argentina
 1982 Italy 3-1 West Germany Spain
 1986 Argentina 3-2 West Germany Mexico
 1990 West Germany 1-0 Argentina Italy
 1994 Brazil 0-0 (3-2 pens) Italy USA
 1998 France 3-0 Brazil France
 2002 Brazil 2-0 Germany Korea/Japan
 2006 Italy 1-1 (5-3 pens) France Germany
 2010 Spain 1-0 Netherlands South Africa
 2014 Germany 1-0 Argentina Brazil

Source: FIFA Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

Top two from each group progress to the knockout stage **If scores level after 90 minutes, knockout stage matches go into extra-time. Matches remaining level decided on penalties**

E **F** **G** **H**

June 17 Costa Rica Serbia Samara
 Brazil Switzerland Rostov
 22 Brazil Costa Rica St Petersburg
 Serbia Switzerland Kaliningrad
 27 Serbia Brazil Moscow
 Switzerland Costa Rica Nizhny

June 17 Germany Mexico Moscow
 18 Sweden South Korea Nizhny
 23 South Korea Mexico Rostov
 Germany Sweden Sochi
 27 Mexico Sweden Yekaterinburg
 South Korea Germany Kazan

June 18 Belgium Panama Sochi
 Tunisia England Volgograd
 23 Belgium Tunisia Moscow
 24 England Panama Nizhny
 28 England Belgium Kaliningrad
 Panama Tunisia Saransk

June 19 Colombia Japan Saransk
 Poland Senegal Moscow
 24 Japan Senegal Yekaterinburg
 Poland Colombia Kazan
 28 Japan Senegal Volgograd
 Senegal Colombia Samara

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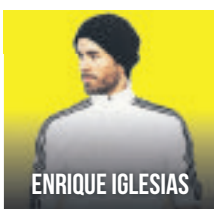
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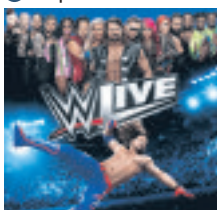
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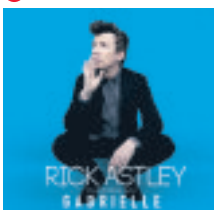


ENRIQUE IGLESIAS

27 Oct 2018



5 Nov 2018

RICK ASTLEY
GABRIELLE

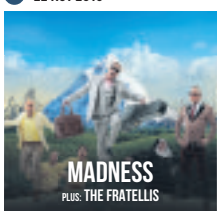
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THE FOUR TOPS & THE TEMPTATIONS
PLUS: TAVARES

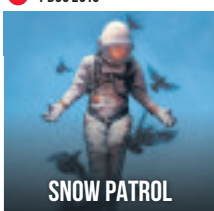
22 Nov 2018

FRANKIE VALLI
& THE FOUR SEASONS

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MADNESS
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Woyzeck's whole lot of heart – no drama

Community is at the heart of Birmingham's cultural scene. And so Birmingham REP director Roxana Silbert is particularly pleased to give 100 locals the chance to perform.

They feature in a stunning new production called *Woyzeck*, by Georg Buchner, which is being presented by Birmingham Repertory Theatre in association with Birmingham International Dance Festival 2018 from tomorrow until June 23.

It stars a central character, *Woyzeck*, who just can't get a break. He's stuck living in military barracks and is forced to shave his condescending commanding officer every day. His wages are pitiful. His girlfriend might be having an affair. And now he is hearing voices. Maybe he's starting to crack? Or maybe it's just because his doctor is trialling a pea-only diet on him? It's far from ideal but his doctor's poking and prodding comes with the reward of some extra money. It's the chance for a better life if *Woyzeck* can just hold on that little bit longer.

Roxana says: "*Woyzeck* was written in the 1830s and we now have a new adaptation of it by Leo Butler. It has two professional actors, *Woyzeck* and Marie, his girlfriend, but the remaining 100 are community participants."

Theatre and dance will combine in the exhilarating story about fighting for a better life when everything else seems to be fighting against you. And as well as celebrating the human spirit, *Woyzeck* also celebrates the West Midlands spirit as a community with its chorus of 100 performers and dancers.

Roxana adds: "The play is the story of *Woyzeck* as a young man. They have a baby. It's the end of a War and it's set in the here and now in an unspecific Middle Eastern town, when they've won the war against insurgents. It's a heady period when the war is over but normality has not yet been established. In essence, it's about how they are trying to survive. He is a soldier with PTSD and no money. There's nothing in that town. It's about his mental health and how he's crushed. But also it's about how spirited they are."

The reason Roxana wanted to stage the play with a community cast is that the key themes of the work focus on the relationship between community and *Woyzeck*. "There are parades, drunken parties and towns."

And so as well as bringing the West Midlands community into the REP, the theatre has also been able to provide invaluable experience to theatrical assistants, assistant directors and tech-staff looking to improve in their chosen careers of sound and stage management.

The participation of amateurs has been revealing. It has not only given them hard-to-come-by experience of being in a professional theatre, but also re-energised the REP itself.

Roxana adds: "The people are from Birmingham and the surrounding area and there are all sorts of individuals here. For three years, we've been looking at this type of initiative where we get more members of the community involved and it's been tremendously important for both the theatre and those taking part."

"What we are hoping to do is create a sustained all-year round drama workshop for the theatre."

In addition to providing entertainment for regular theatre goers, *Woyzeck* is also an exercise in outreach work. It is demonstrating the creative talents of people from Birmingham, the Black Country and beyond. And the talents of West Midlandsers is a theme that Roxana warms to. "This is an amazingly talented city. It has

Community culture – the show is giving locals the chance to perform



an amazing range of young artists but also it's an extraordinary city because it's so diverse and the sense of community is so strong. The best part of this is how lovely people are to each other. The participants are aged 16 to 80 and they come from all backgrounds and all areas. They all make a great effort to get along."

Roxana's background was in community theatre and she has brought that ethos to the REP.

"It's energising and inspiring to give people with no confidence stand on the largest stage in the country and speak out with huge confidence. A lot of people who come do so for personal reasons, frequently because things have gone wrong. Part of their rehabilitation is being creative. And from my perspective, that's much more moving than seeing people who are paid professionals."

"I think a regional theatre is about community. To put that community at the heart of what we do is the most important thing of all."

● Tickets are available from the venue.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

This is an amazingly talented city. The sense of community is strong

first time she's danced since she's got out. We've seen people with no confidence stand on the largest stage in the country and speak out with huge confidence. A lot of people who come do so for personal reasons, frequently because things have gone wrong. Part of their rehabilitation is being creative. And from my perspective, that's much more moving than seeing people who are paid professionals."

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In the Upper Room Pic: Roy Smiljanic



Curtain up on classic and contemporary ballets

FOLLOWING a successful tour of Japan, Birmingham Royal Ballet return home this month with striking modern works and the most famous love story ever told.

Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet will be staged at the company's home theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome, from June 26 to 30.

Before that BRB present two modern classics and a must-see premiere in an adventurous programme entitled Polarity and Proximity.

Created in 2014 by former BRB dancer Alexander Whitley for the Birmingham International Dance Festival, Kin. is an athletic, abstract piece danced to a pulsing, hypnotic score by Phil Kline.

Embrace, choreographed by Worcestershire-born

George Williamson to a specially commissioned score from Sarah Kirkland Snider with new designs from Madeleine Girling, premieres as part of the Ballet Now talent development programme.

The triple bill concludes with American choreographer Twyla Tharp's In the Upper Room. Quick footed, dancers in sneakers and striking red pointe shoes dominate the stage with energy, flair and finesse, dancing to the hypnotic music of Philip Glass.

The Polarity and Proximity programme is at the Hippodrome, as part of the Birmingham International Dance Festival, from June 20 to 23.

A cast of more than 50 feature in Romeo and Juliet, and the spectacle is accompanied by Prokofiev's score played live by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

Be Witness as Katy Roars into Brum



She stormed to the top of the charts with debut single I Kissed A Girl 10 years ago – and has shown no signs of letting up since.

A string of hits have followed for Katy Perry – or Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson to give her her real name – including further number ones California Gurls, Part of Me and Roar.

After album successes with One of the Boys, Teenage Dream and Prism, the 35-year-old singer/songwriter, pictured, has embarked on her Witness tour and plays at Arena Birmingham next Monday,

June 18. Popular 21-year-old Hailee Steinfeld, best know for her hits Starvin', a collaboration with Zedd, and Capital Letters, with BloodPop, provides support.

Ticket prices start from £57.40, including an admin fee. Visit www.theticketfactory.com or call the ticket hotline on 0844 33 88 222.

HIGHLIGHTS

Award-winning US jazz and soul guitarist and singer George Benson has a date in the Second City on the same night.

Since the early 1960s, Benson's recorded highlights have

included Give Me The Night and In Your Eyes. He performs at the Symphony Hall.

"This ain't no disco. It ain't no country club either." It's the same Broad Street venue where Sheryl Crow, well-known for hits such as All I Wanna Do, performs on Tuesday, June 19. It Ain't Over Til It's Over as Grammy-award winning Lenny Kravitz takes the stage at Arena Birmingham on Wednesday.

Next Thursday, meanwhile, is a nice day for a White Wedding, as Billy Idol completes a busy week of gigs in Birmingham. The rocker plays at the O2 Academy.

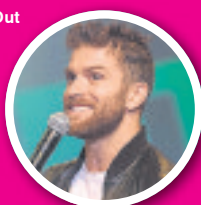
Joel tops the bill at Brierley Hill

I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 2016 runner-up Joel Dommett, pictured, tops the four comic bill when the Live At The Civic comedy night returns to Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Saturday.

Also bringing the laughs will be debonair 1930s throwback Troy Hawke, musical Rob Deering and Dudley's own Wayne Beese.

Tickets cost £18.50 and the show starts at 8pm. It is for over 18s only.

See www.bhillcivic.co.uk for further details.



Roll over Beethoven for ELO encounter

A FANTASTIC tribute to Jeff Lynne's ELO aims to prove Rock and Roll is King this weekend – in the band's home city.

The ELO Encounter flawlessly recreate the wonderful sounds of the Electric Light Orchestra, with stunning lights and special effects to create an enthralling atmosphere.

The Blue Sky Tour hits the Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, on Saturday, from 7.30pm.

Expect to hear classic hits like Living Thing, Evil Woman, Telephone Line, Don't Bring Me Down. Hold On Tight and Sweet Talkin' Woman.

Tickets are £20, or £18 for students, under-16s and 60 plus. Book at www.crescent-theatre.co.uk or call the Crescent Theatre box office on 0121 643 5858.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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The Island Pool is a classic country pub serving not only a high standard of food but great traditional ales.

A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

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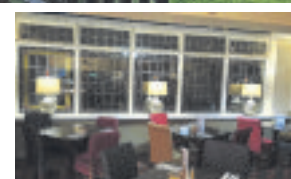
"Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and 8pm and Saturday from 12 noon to 9pm.



Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."



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Kirsty Wark

Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2018 (BBC2, 9pm)
The Royal Academy of Arts' Summer Exhibition is the world's oldest open submission show, allowing anyone to submit their work for consideration. As it reaches its 250th year, Kirsty Wark and Jayson Mansaray follow the preparations for the annual art extravaganza. They meet this year's curator, the artist Grayson Perry, and follow a handful of aspiring artists, including celebrities Harry Hill, Joe Lycett and Una Stubbs, who submitted their work in the hope of being selected for a place in this hallowed institution.

BBC1
6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. **1.15** BBC News: Weather. **1.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **4.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Peru v Denmark (Kick-off 5.00pm).
7.10 BBC News.
7.20 Regional Programme.
7.30 **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present another star-studded edition of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz, this time inviting a selection of popular impressionists to compete. Seeking to emerge with the least points are The Big Impression double-act Alistair McGowan and Ronni Ancona, Dead Ringers co-stars Jon Culshaw and Jan Ravens, Rory Bremner and his Coalition Report collaborator Matt Forde, and Britain's Got Talent comedy stars Francine Lewis and Danny Posthill. (R)
8.20 **Casualty.** With Dylan nowhere to be found, Connie and Elle are forced to work together to pitch for funding for a new trauma centre. With both women struggling to hide their resentment of each other, their relationship hits rock bottom. Elsewhere, Bea grows concerned for Alicia, while Gem and Rash are tasked with looking after Connie's goldfish.
9.10 **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Brendan O'Carroll's alter ego and her family welcome more celebrity guests into the family home, including Alan Davies, Marvin and Rochelle Humes and Wayne Bridge, who is called on to give Dermot and Buster a football masterclass.
10.10 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Dan Walker introduces action from four group matches – France v Australia, Peru v Denmark, Argentina v Iceland and Croatia v Nigeria.
11.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. Argentina v Iceland. A full re-run of the opening match in Group D, as the teams faced each other at Spartak Stadium in Moscow.
1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2
6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Natural Born Winners. (R) **9.30** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **10.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **11.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **11.45** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.45** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.30** The World According to Kids. (R) **2.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **3.30** Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. (R) **4.30** Choose the Right Puppy for You. (R) **5.30** The River Wye with Will Millard.
6.00 **Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In?** Students face their mock GCSEs, while the head teachers of Erith and Tonbridge announce a plan to bring both schools into the same trust. Last in the series. (R)
7.00 **Dad's Army.** Private Pike receives his call-up papers and unexpectedly passes his medical, much to the horror of his mollycoddling mother. (R)
7.30 **Film: Earth: One Amazing Day.** (2017) Premiere. Feature-length wildlife documentary from the same team the made David Attenborough's award-winning Planet Earth and Blue Planet documentaries, charting the story of life on Earth over the course of a single day. The film introduces viewers to a cast of characters including a baby zebra desperate to cross a swollen river, a penguin heroically undertaking a death-defying daily commute to feed its family, a family of sperm whales that like to snooze vertically and a sloth on the lookout for love. Narrated by Robert Redford.
9.00 **Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2018.** Kirsty Wark and Jayson Mansaray follow the preparations for the annual art exhibition, meeting this year's curator Grayson Perry and some of the celebrities who have submitted work.
10.00 **All Girls Live at the Apollo.** Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life in this show recorded before a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo.
10.45 **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.**
11.45 **Film: The Help.** (2011)
2.05 Civilisations on Your Doorstep. (R)
3.05 This Is BBC Two.

ITV
6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Impossible. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjabo. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** Midsomer Murders. (R) **11.20** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **1.30** FIFA World Cup 2018. Argentina v Iceland (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** Catchphrase. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)
6.00 ITV News: Weather.
6.15 Regional Programme: Weather.
6.25 **Take Me Out.** Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)
7.30 **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Croatia v Nigeria (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the match at the Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia, where the teams play their opening Group D contest. This will be the fifth World Cup the Croats have participated in, and they will hope to improve on their three most recent tournaments, all of which saw them lose their opening contest, before crashing out at the group stage. The one time they did win their first fixture was during their debut at France '98, when they registered a 3-1 win over Jamaica and qualified second in their group, and eventually finished third after beating the Netherlands in the third-place play-off. The Super Eagles have also got off to a slow start at their three most recent World Cup appearances, losing to Argentina in 2002 and 2010, while drawing 0-0 with Iran four years ago in Brazil, and a fast start could be imperative to their prospects of reaching the knockout stage given they will next face an unknown quantity in Iceland, before re-acquainting themselves with old foes Argentina.
10.15 ITV News: Weather.
10.35 **Film: Rocky II.** (1979) Drama sequel, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and Carl Weathers.
12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4
6.05 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.35** Triathlon: Blenheim Palace. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.45** Frasier. (R) **9.15** Frasier. (R) **9.45** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.40** The Simpsons. (R) **11.10** The Simpsons. (R) **11.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.40** Four in a Bed. **1.15** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.45** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.20** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.25** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News.
6.00 **Film: Snow White & the Huntsman.** (2012) An evil queen learns that her reign will last for ever if she kills a princess, so sends a renowned warrior to find and murder her. However, he comes to realise his mistress's evil ways, and instead trains his intended victim to fight so they can bring the tyrant's rule to an end. Fantasy adventure, with Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron.
8.20 **Live International Rugby Union.** Argentina v Wales (Kick-off 8.40pm). Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the international fixture, staged at the Estadio Brigadier Lopez in Santa Fe. Warren Gatland and his squad will want to finish the international season on a high by clinching a morale-boosting win against the Pumas, 15 months out from the next World Cup. With analysis from Shane Williams, Ugo Monye and Ryan Jones, and commentary by Eddie Butler and Martyn Williams.
10.55 **Film: A Million Ways to Die in the West.** (2014) A timid farmer tries to become a gunslinging Wild West hero to impress a mysterious woman. Western spoof, directed by and starring Seth MacFarlane, with Charlize Theron.
1.05 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Part two of two. Gordon Ramsay uncovers more problems at the Juniper Hill Inn. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. James wants to make sure Harry is back on the straight and narrow, and Sami gives Kyle the wrong idea, while Cindy employs her experiences to help Alfie. (R) **4.05** My Kitchen Rules. A group have to make canapes for 40 guests. (R) **5.00** Jamie's Comfort Food. Jamie Oliver prepares osso buco with a twist. (R) **5.10** Cheap Cheap Cheap. Kelly shows off her gymnastic skills. (R)

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.40** Funniest Dogs Behaving Badly. (R) **12.25** Funniest Ever Toddler Tantrums. (R) **1.25** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.20** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.15** Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies. (R) **5.15** 5 News Weekend. **5.20** Chuckle Time.
6.10 **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** New series. The first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey.
7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the second one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.
7.40 **Before They Were Stars.** New series. A trek back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars. Among those skewered are pop stars, rock legends, silver-screen icons, celebrated comedians and sporting heroes.
8.40 **Blind Date.** New series. Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which contestants must choose between three unseen suitors.
9.35 **20 Moments That Rocked Talent Shows.** A journey through the instances that rocked the genre and the fall-out that followed. Included is the occasion Will Young triumphed over Simon Cowell's favourite Gareth Gates on Pop Idol and the discovery of Cheryl Fernandez-Versini via Pop Stars: The Rivals. Plus, the memorable time Susan Boyle stepped out to sing I Dreamed a Dream on Britain's Got Talent and the tragic tale of Lena Zavaroni, the former child star winner of Opportunity Knocks. Contributors include Louis Walsh, Pete Waterman and Nina Myskow. (R)
11.05 **Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups.** Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end. (R)
12.00 SportCasino. **3.10** **Film:** The Green Hornet. (2011) **5.00** Access. **5.10** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL
BBC Four
7.00 The Burrowers: Animals Underground **8.00** Darcy Bussell's Looking for Audrey **9.00** Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1995 **11.30** Killing Me Softly: The Roberta Flack Story **12.30** Natural World: The Woman Who Swims with Killer Whales **1.30** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **2.30** Darcy Bussell's Looking for Audrey **3.30** Close
ITV2
12.25 Ninja Warrior UK **1.30** **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40** **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.15** **Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** **Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.20** **Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** **Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.05** **Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** **Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **9.05** Celebrity Juice **10.55** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** Through the Keyhole **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
7.00 Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.05** Murder, She Wrote **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from York. Coverage of today's races. **4.00** **Film:** Kharatoom (1966) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** **Film:** Kharatoom (1966) **6.40** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** **Film:** Lethal Weapon (1987) **11.15** **Film:** Lethal Weapon (1987) **11.15** **Film:** Memphis Belle (1990) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** **Film:** Memphis Belle (1990) **1.25** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **2.30** The Protectors **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.50 Young Sheldon **12.20** The Big Bang Theory **6.20** **Film:** Hulk (2003) **9.00** **Film:** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Gogglebox **1.00** Tattoo Fixers **2.05** Rude Tube **3.05** Gogglebox **4.00** Rude Tube **4.25** Rude(ish) Tube
Film4
11.00 Rugrats Go Wild (2003) **1.00** Hotel for Dogs (2009) **3.00** Carry On Teacher (1959) **4.40** Crocodile Dundee (1988) **6.50** Romancing the Stone (1984) **9.00** A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) **10.55** Predator 2 (1990) **1.05** Sorcerer (1977) **3.35** Close

EVERY FRIDAY!

New Car?

MOTURING

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MOTURING

New Porsche Cayenne SUV breaks cover

BMW makes the updated 3 and new 13s

ALSO THIS WEEK...

- Dacia Duster Revolution
- Adventure with Land Rover
- Be Safe on the School Run

NEW CAR OFFERS

USED CAR DEALS

PRIVATE AND FROM THE TRADE!

NEW CAR REVIEWS & ROAD TESTS

MOTURING

CHOICE



Gareth Southgate

Managing England: The Impossible Job (BBC2, 9pm)

A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents Sven Goran-Eriksson, Roy Hodgson and Sam Allardyce. Past players such as Gary Lineker, Alan Shearer and Rio Ferdinand also contribute as the programme looks at why it is such a difficult job and how the nation's trophy drought in the sport can be ended.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** BBC News: Weather. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.10** Escape to the Country. **1.40** Points of View. **1.55** Songs of Praise. **2.30** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **3.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Germany v Mexico (Kick-off 4.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening Group F fixture, which takes place at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

6.10 **A Question of Sport.** With double Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Rebecca Adlington, world snooker champion Mark Selby, England cricketer Samit Patel and Great Britain 400m hurdler Dai Greene. (R)

6.40 **BBC News.**

6.50 **Regional Programme.**

7.00 **Countryfile.** Sean Fletcher, Margherita Taylor and Steve Brown present the show from Northern Ireland, sailing a traditionally made clinker boat down Lower Lough Erne, reporting on the rising numbers of pine martens and marking the 200th anniversary of hymn writer Cecil Frances Alexander's birth. Plus, Tom Heap talks to James Dyson about his ideas for the future of British farming and John Craven, Cerys Matthews and Simon King launch this year's photographic competition.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Newcastle's Civic Centre, where artefacts brought in to be valued include an impressive crossbow and a collection of plans for RMS Mauretania.

9.00 **Poldark.** The Enysen announce they are having a baby, while Hugh's failing health threatens his chances of standing for election and puts more pressure on the Poldarks' failing marriage.

10.00 **BBC News.**

10.20 **Regional Programme.**

10.30 **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.** Action from the latest group matches.

11.20 **The World Cup: Hopes of a Nation.** A look at England's star players in World Cups from 1982 through to the present day. (R)

11.55 **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.**

1.35 **Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.40** **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 **Coast.** (R) **6.45** **Glorious Gardens** from Above. (R) **7.30** **Gardeners' World.** (R) **8.30** **Countryfile.** (R) **9.25** **The Beechgrove Garden.** **10.00** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.30** **Spring Kitchen** with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.10** **Film:** Carmen Jones. (1954) **1.55** **Film:** The Odd Life of Timothy Green. (2012) Fantasy, starring Jennifer Garner. **3.30** **Money for Nothing.** (R) **4.15** **Flog It!** (R) **5.00** **Hairy Bikers' Best of British.** (R)

6.00 **Dragons' Den.** Jenny Campbell, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Deborah Meaden and Tej Lalvani assess the profit-making potential of a young entrepreneur's plan for selling advertising space on the move, a teacher's unusual scheme for improving children's handwriting, and a range of chain-tensioning products for motorcycles. (R)

7.00 **Million Pound Menu.** A husband and wife want to bring bubble-and-squeak to the masses and a former cookery school teacher has a dream of opening his own restaurant. But both need investment. (R)

8.00 **Expedition Volcano.** Part one of two. Documentary following scientists studying volcanoes in the Congo, beginning with Nyiragongo, which has erupted twice in the last 50 years. (R)

9.00 **Managing England: The Impossible Job.** A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents including Sven Goran-Eriksson.

10.00 **Atlanta.** Earn accompanies Van to an up-market Juneteenth soiree, where the pair pose as man and wife in an effort to help Van secure some vital networking contacts.

10.25 **Atlanta.** Earn's jacket goes missing after a house party. Determined to track it down, he retraces his steps, and manages to tie up a few loose ends in the process.

10.50 **Film: Begin Again.** (2013) A disgraced record executive begins a life-changing collaboration with a singer he meets in New York's East Village. Comedy drama, with Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo.

12.30 **Sign Zone: Question Time.** (R) **1.30** **Holby City.** (R) **2.30** **This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Sooty.** **6.10** **Grizzly Tales** for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** **Grizzly Tales** for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** **Dino Dana.** (R) **6.50** **Mission Employable.** (R) **6.55** **The Oddbods Show.** (R) **7.05** **Ninjabo: Tournament of Elements.** (R) **7.30** **The Haunted Hathaways.** (R) **7.55** **Drop Dead Weird.** **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** **Zoe Ball** on Sunday. **9.25** **The Martin Lewis Money Show Live.** (R) **10.20** **Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **11.20** **The Best of the Voice Worldwide.** **12.20** **ITV News: Weather.** **12.30** **FIFA World Cup 2018: Costa Rica v Serbia** (Kick-off 1.00pm). All the action from the opening match in Group E, which comes from the Samara Arena in Russia. **3.15** **Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R) **4.00** **Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** With contestants Harry Redknapp, Denise Van Outen and Audley Harrison. (R) **5.00** **The Chase.** (R)

6.10 **ITV News: Weather.**

6.15 **Regional Programme: Weather.**

6.30 **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Brazil v Switzerland (Kick-off 7.00pm). Both teams get their Group E campaigns under way at the Rostov Arena in Russia. Mark Pougatch presents. Mark Pougatch is joined by Ian Wright, Roy Keane, Slaven Bilic and Gary Neville in the studio, with commentary from Clive Tyldesley and Lee Dixon.

9.15 **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts a special World Cup edition of the game show, asking contestants John Barnes, Helen Chamberlain and Chris Kamara to 'see it and say it' as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000 for charity.

10.15 **ITV News: Weather.**

10.30 **Classic Brit Awards 2018.** Alexander Armstrong and Mylene Klass host the classical music awards show from the Royal Albert Hall. Featuring a celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals.

12.15 **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport.** (R) **12.45** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Motorsport UK.** (R) **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 **The King of Queens.** (R) **6.30** **Motorsport: GT Silverstone.** **7.30** **Eat the Week.** (R) **8.30** **Frasier.** (R) **9.00** **Frasier.** (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch.** **12.30** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** (R) **1.30** **The Simpsons.** (R) **1.55** **The Simpsons.** (R) **2.25** **Film: Mirror Mirror.** (2012) Fantasy, starring Julia Roberts. **4.30** **Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.35** **Bang** on Budget.

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Escape to the Chateau.** Series following a British family restoring a French chateau. As summer arrives, Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree are busier than ever with seven weddings and 14 food lovers' weekends to prepare for. And as if that wasn't enough to keep them busy, they must also sort out the garden. (R)

8.00 **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the next stage of the patisserie contest, in which the three best teams from both sets of heats are brought together, facing new rivals and yet more demanding challenges as they strive to impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin. For their first task, the six teams must each prepare 24 classic croissants and 24 Viennoiserie in just four hours. The second challenge involves preparing a romantic sugar showcase, which must incorporate two types of confectionery.

9.00 **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred goes into a downward spiral as a Gilead ceremony disrupts her relationship with Nick. Janine tries to adjust to life in the Colonies, jeopardizing her friendship with Emily.

10.05 **The Swingers.** The first episode of the second series of the Dutch drama exploring the dark side of suburbia. Steef is in jail following a confrontation, but does not plan on staying there. The full series is available online.

10.55 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Sean Lock teams up with Andrew Flintoff to compete against guest captain Bill Bailey and team-mate Roisin Conaty in the comedy panel quiz show mash-up. Presented by Jimmy Carr. (R)

12.00 **Film: All Is Lost.** (2013) **1.50** **The Secret Life of the Zoo.** (R) **2.45** **Mobil 1: The Grid.** (R) **3.10** **Gillette World Sport.** **3.40** **My Kitchen Rules.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!:** Little Princess. **6.10** **Wissper.** (R) **6.20** **Poggy Cat.** (R) **6.30** **Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **6.35** **The Secret Life of Puppies.** (R) **6.40** **Mofy.** (R) **6.45** **Simon.** (R) **6.50** **Only the Little White Van.** (R) **7.00** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **7.05** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.15** **Thomas & Friends.** (R) **7.35** **Fireman Sam.** (R) **7.50** **Rusty Rivets.** (R) **8.05** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **8.20** **Nella the Princess Knight.** (R) **8.35** **Noddy: Toyland Detective.** (R) **8.55** **Floogals.** (R) **9.05** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.20** **Shimmer and Shine.** (R) **9.40** **Digby Dragon.** (R) **9.55** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **10.00** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **10.10** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.45** **Britain's Greatest Bridges.** (R) **10.55** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.45** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.45** **Funnist Cutest Kittens Ever.** (R) **1.45** **Film: One Chance.** (2013) Fact-based comedy drama, starring James Corden.

2.45 **Access.** **2.50** **Film: One Chance.** (2013) Concluded. **3.50** **Film: Walking on Sunshine.** (2014) Musical comedy, starring Hannah Arterton. **4.50** **Access.** **4.55** **Film: Walking on Sunshine.** (2014) Concluded. **5.40** **5 News Weekend.** **5.45** **Britain's Favourite Abba Songs.** (R) **7.00** **Abba: When All Is Said and Done.**

Docudrama telling the stories of singers Agnetha Faltskog and Anni-Frid Lyngstad, told through the words both of those in Abba's close circle and of the women themselves. Agnetha Faltskog was the band's blonde sweetheart, but privately she was very different and found fame difficult to cope with and ended up in court battling a stalker that she had let into her life, while Anni-Frid enjoyed the limelight, but her rags-to-riches story is one of immense loss and tragedy. (R)

9.00 **The Mamma Mia Story.** The enduring appeal of the hit stage and movie musical set to the songs of Abba, with contributions from writer Catherine Jenkins, celebrity fans and cast members.

10.25 **Abba: Live in Concert.** The Swedish band in concert during their six-night residence at London's Wembley Arena in November 1979, featuring hits including Voud-Vous, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. (R)

11.30 **Eurovision's Greatest Hits.** A countdown of the most memorable tracks from past song contests. (R)

12.25 **Lip Sync Battle UK:** Peter Andre vs Gino D'Acampo. (R) **12.55** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Dale Winton's Florida Fly Drive.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 **Film:** The Eagle Huntress (2016) **8.20** **Victoria Wood:** Seen on TV **9.50** **Julius Caesar** **11.45** **Can Science Make Me Perfect?** with Alice Roberts **1.15** **Timewatch:** Young Victoria **2.05** **On Do Shut Up Dear!** Mary Beard on the Public Voice of Women **3.05** **Close**

ITV2

12.40 **Take Me Out 1.50** You've Been Framed! **2.55** **Film:** Casper (1995) **3.55** **FYI Daily 4.00** **Film:** Casper (1995) **4.50** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.50** **FYI Daily 5.55** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **6.55** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.55** **FYI Daily 8.00** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** **Love Island 10.00** **Love Island: AfterSun 11.05** **Family Guy 12.35** **American Dad! 1.30** **Totally Bonkers** Guinness World Records **2.15** **Teleshopping 5.45** **ITV2 Nightscreen**

ITV3

12.55 **Agatha Christie's Marple 5.00** **Vera 9.00** **Unforgotten 11.00** **Wire in the Blood 1.00** **Blue Murder 2.20** **Liverpool 1 3.20** **Road to Avonlea 5.05** **Judge Judy 5.30** **ITV3 Nightscreen**

ITV4

11.15 **The Professionals 12.20** **The Sweeney 1.25** **Pawn Stars 2.50** **Film: Khartoum** (1966) **3.55** **FYI Daily 4.00** **Film: Khartoum** (1966) **5.30** **World Rugby U20 Championship Live.** Coverage of the final (Kick-off 6.00pm). **8.15** **Sporting Funnies 8.30** **River Monsters 9.00** **Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights 10.00** **Film: Source Code** (2011) **11.05** **FYI Daily 11.10** **Film: Source Code** (2011) **11.55** **Film: The Ghost** (2010) **12.55** **FYI Daily 1.00** **Film: The Ghost** (2010) **2.35** **World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy 2.50** **ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00** **Teleshopping**

E4

11.00 **The Goldbergs 1.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1.30** **Young Sheldon 2.00** **The Big Bang Theory: Father's Day 6.00** **Film: Cheaper by the Dozen** (2003) **8.00** **The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special 9.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00** **Gogglebox 11.00** **Gogglebox Australia 12.05** **The Big Bang Theory 1.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.00** **Gogglebox Australia 2.55** **Rude Tube 3.25** **Hollyoaks**

Film4

11.00 **Napoleon Dynamite** (2004) **1.00** **Shark Tale** (2004) **2.45** **Rio 2** (2014) **4.45** **Field of Dreams** (1989) **6.50** **The Jewel of the Nile** (1985) **8.00** **Triple 9** (2016) **11.15** **Welcome to the Punch** (2013) **1.10** **Les Combattants** (2014) **3.10** **Close**

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Deadline for Death: Your Parents Will Die, Channel 5, 3.20pm
 A newlywed couple of private detectives are forced to prove their crimebusting prowess when their parents are taken hostage by a vengeful kidnapper who claims his brother was wrongly convicted of murder. Mystery drama, starring Rachel Blanchard and Cameron Mathison. (2014)

TUESDAY
Unwanted Guest, Channel 5, 3.20pm
 With nowhere to go for winter break, Amy is invited to spend time with her friend Christine's family. What begins as a nice bonding experience soon turns into a nightmare as Amy begins to lash out at her welcoming hosts. Thriller, starring Kate Mansi and Valentina Novakovic. (2016)

WEDNESDAY
Her Son's Deadly Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 Thirteen years after disappearing, presumed drowned, a man returns home to his mother, but questions remain about his intentions. Thriller, starring Olivia d'Abo and Tammy Blanchard. (2018)



Sexy Beast, Friday, Channel 4, 12.10am

THURSDAY
Deadly Vows, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A woman becomes suspicious of her brother's fiancée, a pastry chef who poisons men who do not meet her high standards. Crime drama, starring Brittany Underwood and Cameron Jebo. (1900)

FRIDAY
Mad Max, ITV, 11.45pm
 A cop in the near future sets out to avenge his family's murder at the hands of a biker gang. Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson and Joanne Samuel. (1979)

Sexy Beast, Channel 4, 12.10am
 A retired safe-breaker enjoying the high life in Spain becomes the target of unwanted attention when his psychotic former gangland boss comes looking to enlist his help and expertise for a major bank robbery in London. Crime thriller, starring Ray Winstone, Ben Kingsley, Ian McShane and Amanda Redman. (2000)

Will the Three Lions be ready to roar in Russia?

A few England supports will have fond memories of Alf Ramsey's side's famous triumph in 1966, but most others will only remember the agonising losses to Germany, Argentina, Portugal and Brazil.

Indeed, disappointments on the biggest stage have haunted the English national team for years – even more so recently.

At the 2014 World Cup, the Three Lions didn't even escape the group stage and at Euro 2016 they were eliminated in the last 16 by Iceland in an enormous upset.

But whether they like to admit it or not, most England fans are filled with at least a tiny bit of optimism believing that they can win the World Cup again.

Gary Cahill, Ashley Young and Jamie Vardy are the only players in the squad over 30 years old, and England have a fresher, younger look with a new manager.

Okay, at the back, there is inexperience that could be costly at this level, so a lot could hinge of the

relatively old heads of Cahill, Kyle Walker, Ashley Young and Phil Jones.

However, boss Gareth Southgate is blessed with youthful talent up front, and Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Marcus Rashford are all capable of leading the line, while midfielders Dele Alli, Jesse Lingard, Jordan Henderson and Eric Dier are adept at providing the ammunition.

The first side in captain Kane and co's sights at the Volgograd Arena today are Group G rivals Tunisia.

The Eagles of Carthage are Africa's highest-ranked team, but come into the World Cup as a bit of a wildcard after qualifying for the first time in 12 years.

Nabil Maâloul's men's won their qualifying group without losing a match and only conceded four goals in six matches.

In this, their fifth World Cup, they are attempting to finally get out of the group stage, but they will have to do it without their best player, Youssef Msakni, who has a knee injury.

Instead, Tunisia will rely heavily on striker Saber Khalifa and attacking midfielder Wahbi Khazri, who has had an outstanding club season after being loaned from Sunderland to French side Rennes.

Coming up against England and Belgium in their first two matches could be brutal for the Tunisians, but if they can salvage a point in one of those contests, a spot in the Round of 16 could be within reach by the time they face Panama.

You may recall England and Tunisia met at the same stage in 1996, with England running out comfortable 2-0 winners in Marseille thanks to goals from Alan Shearer and Paul Scholes.

They will also begin as favourites this evening, although their opponents will be no pushovers, and as with every campaign, one thing is almost guaranteed – there'll be drama aplenty.

So if you're an England fan, prepare to have your nerves shattered and nails bitten down to the wick.



MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018, Monday, BBC1, 6.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Family Farm BBC2, 8pm
 The first of a new four-part series is right up Kate Humble's street. The veteran of many impressive series, including Wild Shepherdess, and Back to the Land, presents the show in which three families agree to work on a North Wales hill farm, living in a purpose-built yurt village in the shadow of Snowdonia. And if that sounds like a lot of hard work, then you'd be right. Hill farming is exhausting enough on the best of days, but when the weather is not so kind, it will push the brave participants to their limits. Episode one focuses on working with sheep, which must be gathered, sheared and sold at market. If nothing else the series will ensure viewers spare a thought for those who have to do this every day without cameras rolling.

TUESDAY
Trevor McDonald: Return to South Africa ITV, 9pm
 It's more than three decades since the host first witnessed the horrors of apartheid in South Africa. Now, to mark what would have been Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday, Trevor McDonald has returned to visit places where he saw moments that would change the history of a country. The veteran

presenter was the first journalist to interview Mandela after his release from prison. He visits Vilekazi Street, the site of the African National Congress veteran's family home, and the place where he conducted the first interview with the political leader following his release from prison after 27 years incarceration. There's perhaps little wonder Trevor considers this the pinnacle of his journalistic career.

WEDNESDAY
Mad About Elvis BBC1, 7.30pm
 It's more than four decades since he died, but the spirit of Elvis Presley is alive, well and partying hard in Porthcawl, South Wales. This film examines the region's annual Elvis Festival, when thousands of fans descend on the Welsh seaside town for a celebration of The King. Among the devotees that pack the promenade, pubs and seafront Pavilion, are Festival Opener Darren Graceland Jones, a full-time Elvis tribute artist, whose bread and butter is performing as Elvis to dementia sufferers in care homes.



Trevor McDonald: Return to South Africa, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Murder of Rhys Jones: Police Tapes ITV, 9pm
 It should have been just another Wednesday night in 2007 as Liverpool mum Melanie Jones carried out a spot of wallpapering. Then she discovered her 11-year-old son Rhys had been shot while on the way home from football practice, and nothing was ever the same again. The story was dramatised as acclaimed TV drama Little Boy Blue, and now there's a chance to see what really happened. Police were left with a seemingly impenetrable case. However, during investigations, certain names repeatedly cropped up, so the authorities planted secret bugs in the homes of these gang members. Susanna Reid gains access to the subsequent recordings, where those responsible

admit their part and the lengths they would go to cover up the crime. Rhys's parents, Mel and Steve, also discuss the impact of this shocking crime.

FRIDAY
Cruising with Jane McDonald Channel 5, 9pm
 It's not a bad life being the star of this show. After all, not only does she get paid to travel the world, but with a Bafta under her belt, there's little chance of producers pulling the plug for a good year or more. In the first of a two-parter, she's exploring South America aboard a luxury ship. Beginning in Valparaiso, Jane enjoys a street art tour, before travelling south along the Chilean coast. A few days later she oohs and aahs over a glacier on Laguna San Rafael, and partakes in the traditional drinking of whisky on ice directly from the glacier. In deepest Patagonia, she stops off in Punta Arenas, and then once back on board the ship, Jane enjoys a tour of the bridge with the captain as they head for the Falklands.

The Bridge BBC2, 9pm
 Pressure mounts to release Tommy's uncooperative mother. A private detective hired by Niels Thormod goes missing. In Danish and Swedish.

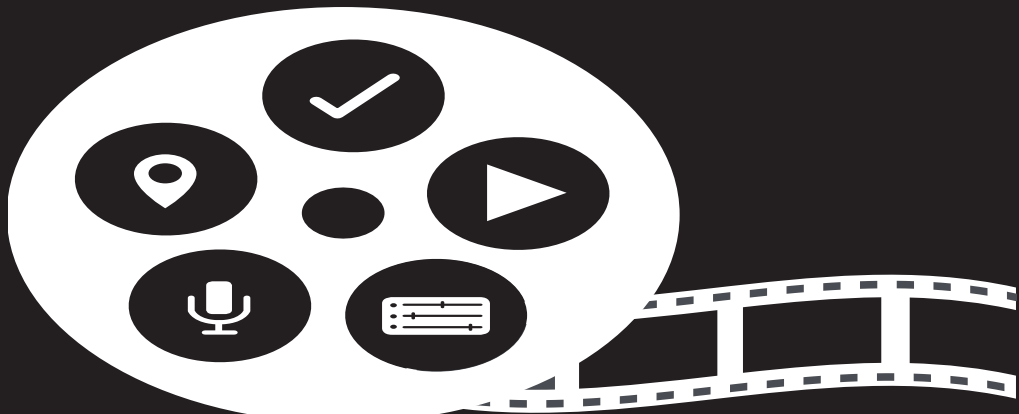
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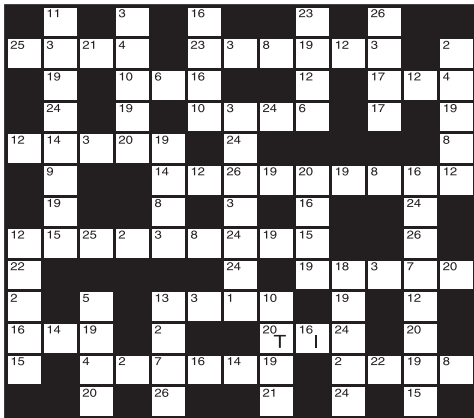


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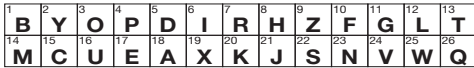
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

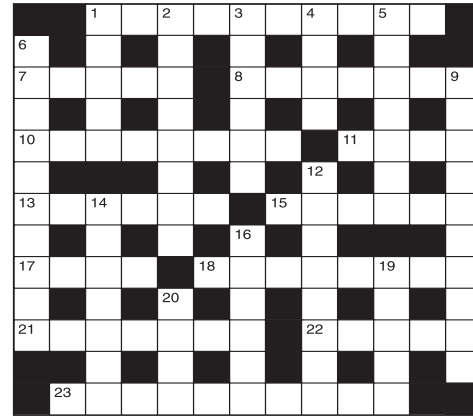
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Escort me to new set-up to settle (4,2,4)
7. Correctly adjust a rank, we hear (5)
8. Change of raiment for part of the mosque (7)
- 10 & 3Dn. Become incensed and fail to process the steel properly? (4,4,6)
11. 22 Across is backing the favourites (4)
13. Mother to make inquiries for fine material (6)
15. Irritates one with chest disorder (6)
17. Few disturbed about one mate (4)
18. Tutor can become a renegade (8)
21. A blazer put on at Christmas time (4-3)
22. A certain speed without delay (5)
23. Friday dragging on infinitely without company! (10)

Down

1. Money required for company in the south (5)
2. My French bird is a snake destroyer (8)
3. See 10 Across.
4. It comes from a caller in Germany (4)
5. Extend a sentence (7)
6. Telephoned on holiday - received message to depart (6,4)
9. He should put the right letters in his case (4-6)
12. One's gate could date back a long way (5,3)
14. Neckwear that will deaden the sound (7)
16. Softly encouraged to be refined (6)
19. Jewels appeal to friends (5)
20. Most of the Navy escape (4)



Quick Clues:

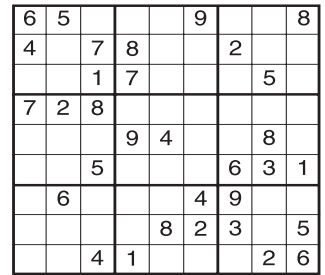
Across

1. Amazing (10)
7. Map (5)
8. Touch (7)
10. Eternally (8)
11. Couple (4)
13. Threefold (6)
15. Picture-house (6)
17. Absent (4)
18. Answer (8)
21. Investigate (7)
22. Debate (5)
23. Tenacious (10)

Down

1. Musty (5)
2. Inopportune (8)
3. Accompany (6)
4. Completed (4)
5. Ignorant (7)
6. Emphasise (10)
9. Menaced (10)
12. Supplant (8)
14. Pattern (7)
16. Alcove (6)
19. Darkness (5)
20. Fling (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	6	7	9	5	4	1	3	8
4	3	5	6	8	1	9	2	7
8	1	9	3	7	2	6	5	4
5	2	8	7	3	6	4	9	1
9	7	3	1	4	5	8	6	2
6	4	1	2	9	8	5	7	3
1	5	6	4	2	3	7	8	9
3	9	4	8	6	7	2	1	5
7	8	2	5	1	9	3	4	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Starter; 7 Every; 9 End; 10 Appearing; 12 Sports model; 15 Star studded; 17 Vacillate; 19 Lie; 21 Began; 22 Binding. Down: 1 Stand; 2 Urn; 3 Keep; 4 Overpower; 5 Drinker; 8 Leased; 11 Appraisal; 13 Rattle; 14 Steamer; 16 Lions; 18 Trip; 20 Odd.
QUICK - Across: 6 Legally; 7 Civil; 9 Wry; 10 Resultant; 12 Possibility; 15 Downhearted; 17 Stolidity; 19 Vow; 21 Boasted; 22 Leading. Down: 1 Learn; 2 Way; 3 Glee; 4 Distiller; 5 Dignity; 8 Number; 11 Countless; 13 Speedy; 14 Control; 16 Mount; 18 Teem; 20 Add.

Quiz

1. Which two of Wagner's opera titles are father and son?
2. At what Beaufort number does smoke rise vertically?
3. Of which element is charcoal a form?
4. What was 12-year-old Vicki van Meter the youngest female pilot to cross?
5. Who painted The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Tulp?
6. What was the British equivalent of

7. Who was the second man on the moon?
8. With which medical disorder may one have Jacksonian seizures?
9. Which controversial TV playwright died in June 1994?
10. Of which country was Rafael Callejas elected president in 1989?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Orwell; 2 Dance; 3 Nicosia; 4 A zygote; 5 M/V Derbyshire; 6 Henry VIII; 7 Hastings; 8 Pierce Brosnan; 9 Mushroom; 10 Ionian.

Niner: LUBRICATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

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gives an Italian composer,
gives a Norwegian composer,
gives an American composer.



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No monkeying around – this is tasty

FOR anyone who's watched Tom Kerridge's latest programme, Top of the Shops, the name Nisha Katona might ring a bell.

The 46-year-old was one of the judges on the BBC Two eight-part show, which pitted Britain's best artisan producers against one another with the reward being a leg-up in an increasingly competitive industry.

Lancashire lass Nisha knows a bit about turning a culinary dream into a reality. She was a barrister for 20 years before deciding to become a restaurateur, food writer and self-styled 'curry evangelist'.

Four years later, Nisha's published three cookery books and has a chain of restaurants. That's pretty good going.

She has branches of her restaurant, Mowgli, in Manchester, Liverpool and Oxford, Birmingham, with Leeds 'opening in autumn 2018', according to the company's website.

SWINGS

Nisha's concept is to serve food Indians eat in their homes and on the street. It's not an entirely new idea with purveyors of Indian street food popping up everywhere.

Mowgli joined the fold fairly recently, its dangling rope swings, illuminated bird cages and exposed bulbs making for a unusual and eye-catching interior. But how does it fair when it comes to serving Indian street food? Is it Top of the Shops? Is Mowgli king of the swingers?

We visited after a disastrous theatre trip with our toddler in which we had to make a sharp exit from Sarah & Duck's Big Top Birthday following a rather catastrophic meltdown over a lack of Cadbury Buttons. We dipped out of the Old Rep and into Grand Central looking for somewhere to improve parent-child relations and sate our growling tummies.

Food is fresh, tasty and served in dinky portions



And so with rope swings, sunny service, the promise of speedy street food, and some crayons and a colour-in sheet for the little 'un, we opted for dinner at Mowgli.

The menu's divided into 'street' foods and more main course dishes such as curries, although our waitress explained that most of them were fairly small so we'd need two or three per person. The price reflects the size of the dishes too, with many of them about £5/6 each.

There are also complete meal tiffin boxes comprising a chef's selection of curries and carbs. 'Food roulette, total pot luck' says the menu. Nice.

Monkey around – Mowgli in Grand Central



Anyway we settled on six dishes plus a trio of sides. There's a children's menu but our little girl was too busy scribbling over the selection with a blue crayon so we agreed she'd just have a bit of everything we were having.

First to arrive was the bhel puri, an army mess-style steel tin packs with puff rice with crisp gram threads, peanuts, coriander and a spicy dressing. This was heavenly. Crunchy, nutty, zingy, sour, I could have eaten it by the bucket load and we fought over who had the last spoonful.

Next we went for butter chicken, the house keema, a portion of dhal and the Mowgli paneer. Of the sides dishes we opted for a couple of puris, the basmati rice and the Mowgli slaw.

The paneer dish was exquisite, and the lamb keema was packed with flavour. For dessert we enjoyed two handmade ice cones.

We settled up, paying £56, which included a large sparkling water and a can of Old Jamaica ginger beer and a tip. Service was friendly and helpful without being intrusive.

EMILY BRIDGEWATER

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fencing work
Telephone: 07851 323303

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R.A. GARDEN SERVICES

Established 24 years
Gardening & Landscaping Services
Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting
• Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing
• Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared
FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS
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Mot's

MOT
£27.99
with this advert
FREE RE-TEST
Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0UJ
0121 559 6001

Garage Doors

GARAGE DOOR PROBLEM?

REPAIR OR NEW INSTALLATION - WE CAN FIX IT!

WE BASE OUR WORK ON QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY



- Side hinged doors from £975
- Security personnel doors from £375
- Up and over garage doors from £499
- Electric insulated roller doors from £980

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lee@visiongaragedoors.com

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Garage Doors

DB GARAGE DOORS

- Supply
- Repair
- Up and Over
- Side Hinged
- Made to measure
- FREE Survey & Quotation
- Install
- Roller
- Sectional
- Remote Control
- Doors

www.dbshutters.co.uk

Tel: 0121 422 1990 Mob: 07860 858378

Local Specialists

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JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

Specialists in
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No Job Too Small
FREE ESTIMATES
Choice of patterns
Quality Workmanship
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0121 561 3977 daytime
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HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING
(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)
iphe All installations and repairs
Supply and fit or fit only
TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes
Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-602 6776
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For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment
needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding,
partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.
No job too small 07538 718264

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Save £££s

All size skips and all areas covered
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A phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week

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REMOVED FOR FREE**07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56****DH PLASTERERS**

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complete rooms
**GUARANTEED
LOWEST PRICES**
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Combi Boiler change from **£950**
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Free Quotation
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Fully Insured up to £2 million
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PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing
and Immersion Heaters,
Multi Point Water Heaters,
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Boilers changed
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STOURBRIDGE 392284

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All types of General Repairs
to your home and garden
Also interior and exterior
decorating
Local Friendly Service
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No Job Too Small

INSIDE OUT SERVICES
ALL ASPECTS OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
• BRICKWORK • BLOCK PAVING CLEANING
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• EXTERIOR PAINTING DECORATING
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One of the Leading Roofing Companies
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● Gutters Cleaned From £15
● Small Repairs From £15
● Pointing Work From £15
SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters,
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- Flat roof specialist
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- Discounted for OAPs
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FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE
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Roofing

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Fully Qualified Fibre Glass Flat Roofer
And Home Improvements
SUMMER SPECIALS
UPVC Fascias, Soffits & Gutters
Exterior Painting • Brighten Up Your Home For Spring!
Free Repointing Quoted • Money Back Guarantee
Gutters cleaned from £15
CALL ON 07553 873075 | 01384 671988
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ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING
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Premium Products Expertly Fitted
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
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www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

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Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate,
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FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE
Quality workmanship at competitive prices.
Fully insured. Portfolio available.
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Walls • Floors • Bathrooms • Kitchens • Conservatories
All work undertaken • Call Tony for a free quote
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11 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL
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FELLING, STUMP REMOVAL,
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(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent
family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service
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1
Family

Clothing - Mens

MENS T-shirts and jumpers, 5XL and 6XL, as brand new and nearly new.
07941 319346.

Elderly & Disabled

WORLD OF MOBILITY
Stourbridge's longest established Family Run Mobility Store
Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4BS. Open Mon-Sat.
01384 378252
WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2
Leisure Time

Boats & Water Sports



ELIZABETH ANN
CONWAY 26

1973, new Ford 75hp diesel engine, 4 berths in 2 cabins, length 26ft, beam 8ft 10, draft 2.0ft, antifouled 2018, anodes 18, bssc 2020, 2 cd players, raytheon radar spotlight, gas cooker, fridge
£12,000 ono.
0121 4262593. 07765 145208.

Caravans Wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
*CASH *WAITING*

Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED.
No objection to work, anything considered. Please telephone 07980 365757.

Caravans/ Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?
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HOLIDAY STATIC
CARAVAN

On a riverside park between Tewkesbury and Gloucester with pub and River Severn.
£6,500.
07717 090817.

ISABELLA MAGNUM all weather awning, good condition, carbon poles, £400 o.n.o. 07730 673198.
RIVERSIDE STATIC CARAVAN, in Evesham, sited static, Fishing on site. You can walk in to town. £10,500. 07774 715830.

Holiday Home for sale -2017 Wellerby Wrekin
BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.
Call Ron or Margaret
01743 685080
www.severnvalleypark.co.uk

STATIC CARAVAN
35 X 12, with large decking, 2 bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20 minutes to coast, ground rent included for 2018, no age limit, dogs welcome. £8,500ono.
07555 303350.



STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE

Pemberton Elite
32ft x 12ft, 6 berth.
Two bedrooms, double glazed, site fees paid till 2019, gas checked, own fishing pools, very good condition inside and out, 15 miles outside Welshpool.
Dog friendly.
No age restrictions on caravan.
£9,500.
07902 853567.

STATIC CARAVAN
Tywyn, Mid Wales
CH, DG, sleeps 6,
ground fees paid to 2019.
£13,000 o.n.o.
For more info call
07881 538052.

VW TRANSPORTER T25 POP TOP CAMPER
Devon Conversion, B reg, 1985, good original condition, 10 months MoT, 5 new tyres and battery, low miles.
£8,500 ono.
07733 777999.

Self Catering Holidays

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET sleeps 4 - 6, On 4" woodland site, pool & free entertainment. June, Sep. Oct £130pw. July, £180pw. school Holidays £395pw. 07974 226928.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
"Weeks from £209 per couple"
"Weekends just £99 per couple"
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly inns
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www.meadowholidays.com

mind, body & soul

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Mobile deep tissue aromatherapy massage treatment by qualified therapist
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Sports & Leisure

Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards
Sunday 17th June and 15th July.
Next Antique Fair, 1st July
East 1979 Waverley. Refreshments available. 0121 550 4381.

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 16th May
07957 399964

3

Home & Services

Furniture

THREE PIECE LEATHER SUITE
tilt and relax, 18 months old, immaculate condition cost over £4,000, sell £1000 ono.
Two solid oak bedside cabinets £50.
01384 571054.

In Your Garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking
LAWN MOWER only used three times. £50 ono.
01384 571054

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BEAUTY SALON EQUIPMENT as new, stool, lamp, semi permanent make up machine plus needles & cable, £650 ono. 01384 422396.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets, New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

FREEZER & DISHWASHER Medium sized, good condition, £150.
07864 842076.

YOUNGMAN lightweight aluminium 2/3 section extension ladder, 7.43m fully extended, adjustable stand, used once. £50. 07736 014246.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

HARD TIMBER required, oak, sycamore, etc. Good prices paid. Contact Jim 07840 100518.
READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.
SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 48k computer wanted also any old Crash or your Sinclair Magazines. 01902 862918.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES
Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint and Mamod Engines.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £795
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm
Sat 9am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael -
Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per hour. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

Landscaping

JD's Landscaping and Building
Bricklaying and all paving work
Fencing and gates
Conservatory and porch bases
FREE QUOTES
Call John 01384 326405 or 07719 807564

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STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 626382

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras, TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"



"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

4
Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

LADY WANTS Chihuahua puppy / young adult, male / female. Good home waiting.
01384 352738 leave message.

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



01902 317878

Classified Ads

SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS FOR

ONLY **£9.99** **cheaper than ebay!**

FOR 6 NIGHTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN YOUR LOCAL EXPRESS & STAR.

- ✓ No hidden costs
- ✓ Buyer collects
- ✓ No postage or returns
- ✓ Local sellers to local people
- ✓ It's that simple!!

Call us on **01902 317878**
or book online at bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Private advertisers only
No pets, livestock, property or personals. **Ebay price checked 2/1/18
Classified Ads

Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007 **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

AUDI A1 1.6TDI

3-DR SPORT

2012, 37,000 miles, two tone, black, grey leather seats, Sat Nav, optional extra 2 tone alloy wheels, spare key, daytime running lights, stop start system, radio / CD, AUX, blue-tooth, electric front windows, multi function steering wheel, air con, full Audi service history, MOT March 1, 2019, one previous owner, good condition inside and out, no road tax, first to see will buy.

£7,950

Any questions
07968 532995.

MUST BE SEEN

BMW Z3

1998, 1.9, green, 91,800, full service history, MOT May 2019, same owner 11 plus years, immaculate condition for year. Any trial.

£3,295

07979 355640.

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 September & 3-4 December
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August **TELFORD:** 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 25-26 July & 17-18 November

Accredited
ocn

Learn how to take blood ...

TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

Introduction to Phlebotomy

- TWO DAY COURSE - Nationally Recognised
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info, or to book online: www.geopace.com

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research



We provide Training in:
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Employment Wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER requires employment, any type of brick work. 07341 021774.

Full Time General



WE ARE NOW RECRUITING!

SUPPORT WORKERS £8.00ph

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS £9.00ph

FULL TIME & PART TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Apply today:

www.inshoresupportltd.co.uk

or call our office on **01384 421460**
for an application pack

Cars Over £1500



AUDI A4 1.9TDI

2007, 151,000 miles, grey, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, MOT, central locking, diesel.

£2,000.

07535 839498.



BMW 1 SERIES

127,000 miles, 2.0 diesel, manual, 5 seats, 5 doors. MOT has recently finished, full BMW service history, economical vehicle with cheap road tax, 2 previous owners, female driver, immaculate condition.

£3,250

07466 114543.



FORD FOCUS TITANIUM TDCi

5-dr, 1.6 speed manual, 2012 (62), new timing belt kit and dual mass clutch / flywheel, full service history (130K), immaculate.

£3,995

07970 705466.



HYUNDAI ix35

2011, 5-dr, five seats, 58,000 miles, black, electric windows, heated seats, air bags, radio / CD player, MOT'd, good condition.

£6,500

07905 809979.



MERCEDES E220 AVANTE GARDE

2004, 54 plate, 71,600 miles (Low Mileage) FSH, MOT'd December. Silver metallic. Superb condition in and out.

£3,500.

01902 766797 / 07817 507294.



MINI ONE

Black with white bonnet stripes, 04 reg, 1.6 petrol, MOT March 2019, 92k miles, lady owner.

£1,675 ono.

07586 347777.



NISSAN QASHQAI

2008, 70,000 miles, high spec Tekna model in super condition. Metallic beige, air con, heated fronted seats, panoramic sunroof, 12 months MOT.

£4,095.

07840 202232.



MERCEDES C320 SE

Auto, Coupe, petrol, silver metallic, 2004/5 (Late 2004), 88,790 miles. Nice motor.

£2,500.

01384 440951.



VW POLO 2007

39,000 miles. Lady owner. Excellent condition. Air con. E/W. Factory alarm. Petrol. 3 door. Full MOT. No service history.

£3,750.

0777 3181254.



VAUXHALL TIGRA B 1.4 EXCLUSIVE

Full leather. 2007. Immaculate. Only 26,000 miles. Second lady driver.

£2,800 ono.

07938 509811.

Cars Under £1500

CITROEN C3

1.4 DIESEL

2007, 5dr hatchback, clean car inside/out. 133,365, grey colour, MOT until March 2019, any trial,

£895.

07787 424281 or 01902 238488.



CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 2.0 SX HDi DIESEL ESATE

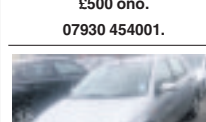
2002

One months MOT.

Silver.

£500 ono.

07930 454001.



FORD FOCUS

2004, 101,000 miles, last serviced at 97k, silver, MOT until November 1, 2018, slight dent in passenger door. Still being used. Viewings welcome, priced to sell!

£600 ono.

01902 651983.



FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK

2001, 1800, 5 months MOT, good condition and runner, very reliable.

£395 ono

07779 468428



FORD KA 1599CC 2008.

3 door hatchback. Full 12 months MOT. Any trial. Blue colour. 69,774 miles.

£995.

07787 424281 or 01902 238488.

SUBARU FORESTER

2000, petrol,

137,400 miles had engine rebuild at 127,000, 784 miles, new clutch, cambelt,

recent front discs and pads and Cat convertor,

MOT May 2019.

£1,200

07795 001603.



TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T. SPIRIT VVTi 1.8 2002.

People Carrier. 12 months MOT. 114,000 miles. Very good condition in and out.

£625 ono.

07452 741041.

No txt's or withheld numbers replied too.

Classic Cars



CANARD DEAUVILLE

Four seater convertible with hardtop based on a galvanised chassis, fibre glass body with 2cv running gear, full weather equipment.

£7,000.

01952 812165.



CLASSIC CAR

MGF

1999, 48,000 miles, red, electric windows, air bag, fsh, alarm, MOT, central locking, pas, alloys, front and rear spoilers, stainless exhaust.

£2,250.

01902 751982.

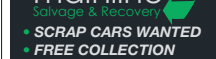


ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available

0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.

Oldbury Area.



mainline salvage & Recovery

• SCRAP CARS WANTED • FREE COLLECTION • TOP PRICES PAID Fully Licensed - C.O.D Issued No Fines - No Comebacks 1000's of vehicle parts in stock

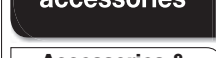
01902 871111 • 07772 240819

07895 346811

www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk



spares & accessories



Accessories & Services

AUTOMATIC GEARBOX For Vauxhall Astra Clubman, 1.6, Twinport S A 5dr hatchback, petrol car 2004 model, £295 ono.

Also other parts for sale. Telephone 07521 411373.



Vehicles Wanted



CROWN MOTORS

Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans

07903 549849

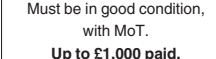
buyer will call



alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.

01562 711083 / 07831 245313



WANTED SMALL CAR

Must be in good condition, with MOT.

Up to £1,000 paid.

Telephone 07961 589264.

WANTED



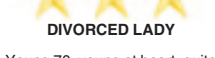
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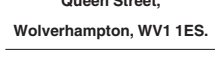
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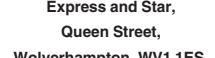
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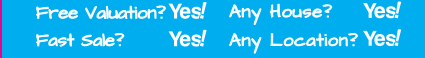
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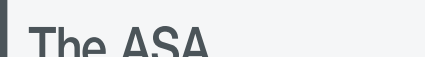
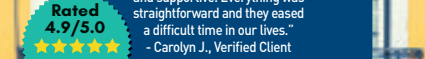
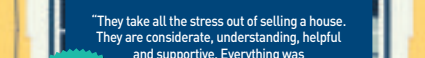
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New Duster pricing and specification

By James Parker

Building on the success of the first generation, the all-new Duster has been improved and refined in almost every area but is as versatile as ever.

The new Duster's ability to stray off the beaten track is expressed by the latest version's updated design. In keeping with the model's DNA, the Duster combines robust, muscular styling with a truly assertive personality. A totally revised interior features new technologies never before seen on the Dacia range.

Still the UK's most affordable SUV, the Duster is priced from £9,995 with UK deliveries beginning from July.

Highlights

The exterior styling is brand-new and not one body panel is carried over from the previous generation car. New 17-inch wheels with black wing arch trims give the car a more assertive personality with a more distinctive grille extending to the head lights, making the car look wider.

The model has a new lighting signature, including LED daytime running lights divided into three sections and Dacia's rear lighting signature – four red stacked squares – has been adapted for the Duster.

The newly designed bonnet features sculpted crease lines that give the car an even more rugged appearance.

A larger, mass-coloured, scratch-resistant front skid plate reinforces Duster's adventurous credentials.

The dashboard and interior have been totally revised for enhanced comfort and



The dashboard and interior have been totally revised



There's a distinctive grille and LED daytime running lights

quality. The centre console accommodates a higher-positioned driver-focused MediaNav multimedia touchscreen display for clear, easy access, with one of the market's shortest viewing distances.

The seats have been completely redesigned with denser foam for improved comfort and support. The front seat cushions are 20mm longer and the driver's seat comes with an

armrest, lumbar adjustment and a new height-adjustment system which travels through 60 mm (compared with 40 mm previously).

Cabin noise has been halved by increasing the percentage of sound-absorbing surfaces in the cabin and engine compartment from 20 to 50 per cent, reducing noise thanks to improved sealants and plugs and using 0.35mm-thicker glass for the front windows.



New 17-inch wheels with black wing arch trims give the car a more assertive personality

The car is now fitted with larger-diameter 165 mm bicone speakers for enhanced audio quality.

Climate control is now available for the first time and the improved layout of the cabin features three rotary controls for this matching the three air vents located at the top of the dashboard.

The new Duster carries over the same off-

roading credentials that helped to make the previous model such a success. Although visually a much more imposing car, the car offers dimensions close to those of its predecessor:

The Duster comes with a choice of one petrol and one diesel engine at launch. The SCe 115 (2WD and 4WD versions) and the Blue dCi 115 (2WD) which both use a manual gearbox.

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Double awards delight for Škoda

By James Parker

The Škoda Octavia has expanded its remarkable trophy haul by clinching yet another industry title.

The brand's best-selling model in the UK eclipsed all its competitors to be named Auto Trader New Car of the Year 2018. And to make it a double delight for Škoda, the Superb was also named Auto Trader Family Car of the Year.

Unlike other industry awards, the Auto Trader Awards are voted for by visitors and readers of Auto Trader rather than a panel of journalists.

More than 40,000 site users took part in the judging process, with owners rating and scoring their cars and ownership experiences.

Scores

Participants were asked to rate their car across 16 different criteria ranging from reliability, performance and their appearance through to car features and running costs.

The Octavia – which was extensively updated last year – recorded the highest scores and finished ahead of the second placed BMW 1-Series and third placed Peugeot 3008.

Commenting on the Octavia's award win, Ivan Aistrop, Auto Trader's road test editor, said: "It's easy to see why Britain's car owners have voted the Octavia as their overall New Car of the Year.

"It offers an incredibly appealing mix of practicality, quality and affordability, and it's



The Octavia recorded the highest scores

also good to drive, well equipped and full of clever features to make everyday life easier.

"As all-rounders go, they don't get much better than this."

Competition

Škoda also triumphed in the Family Car category, comfortably seeing off tough competition to take the sector title. Like the Octavia, the Superb is no stranger to award silverware, with this latest Auto Trader accolade being its 31st industry title since its introduction in 2015.

"The Superb is a great family car," commented Ivan Aistrop.

"Family life is demanding, so you need your family car to help make life a little easier every step of the way.



Škoda also triumphed in the Family Car category, comfortably seeing off tough competition to take the sector title

"The Superb is packed with lots of clever labour-saving little features, and it's also massive, with plenty of space for your brood, and all their stuff.

"Impressive quality, lots of luxury kit and a sophisticated driving experience all help,

too. No wonder owners love it," added Ivan Aistrop.

Combined, the Octavia and Superb have secured more than 45 industry awards over the course of the last four years – making them two of the most decorated models in the

brand's history. The Octavia remains Škoda's biggest selling model in the UK with 20,493 registrations in the UK in 2017.

While the Superb continues to grow its sector share with 10,810 units registered in 2017.

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More powertrains for DS 7 Crossback with petrol option



More choice of engines for the new DS 7 Crossback

Buyers in the market for a new DS 7 Crossback now have more choice when it comes to powertrains, thanks to the addition of a petrol engine to the SUV's range.

The French machine is now available with PSA's PureTech 225 turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine, which currently sees action in the Peugeot 308. It's paired with an eight-speed automatic gearbox and develops 222bhp along with 300Nm of torque.

It'll take the DS 7 Crossback from 0-60mph in 8.1 seconds and on to a top speed of 141mph. As for efficiency, a number of technologies feature on the powertrain to help keep fuel economy high and emissions low.

These include the addition of a particulate filter and 'ECO' function on the gearbox that allows for free-wheeling between 12 and 80mph. The result is a claimed 48.7mpg on a combined cycle with CO2 emissions of 135g/km.

Available to order now, the PureTech 225 engine is offered on Prestige, Ultra Prestige and Performance Line trims of the DS 7 Crossback — with prices starting at £34,990.

There's another powertrain to come for the French SUV, too. It'll be a petrol-electric hybrid, sending 296bhp through all four wheels.

Full information on this electrified set-up will be revealed in due course.



The win marked a turning point for Wolves



Crowds watch the open top bus go by with the players waving



The Wolves squad celebrating at Wembley



Wolves players on the party bus. Bully is on the left

Old golden memories of Sherpa Van Trophy win

IT was 30 years ago when Wolves fans packed out the city centre in a sea of old gold and black after a glorious Wembley victory.

In scenes reminiscent of the Championship promotion party – just a few weeks ago – thousands of supporters congregated in Wolverhampton for the team's civic parade after the Sherpa Van Trophy win in May 1988.

The triumph 30 years ago marked a turning point as the club set about climbing back through the leagues.

Graham Turner's side had lifted the Fourth Division title three weeks earlier. And Wolves had a chance to clinch another trophy at the Home of Football against Burnley. Tens of thousands of supporters travelled down to London for the Sherpa Van final – proving the club's fanbase remained as passionate as ever. And the packed civic parade back in Wolverhampton showed the city still stood firmly behind the club despite its troubles.

Goals from Andy Mutch and Robbie Dennison secured the cup and put the seal on a stunning season, which saw club legend Steve Bull score on an astonishing 52 occasions.

Unbelievable

Ally Robertson was Wolves' skipper on the day in May 1988 and described his memories of a 'fantastic' day which proved Wolves' remained a big club – despite their slump down the divisions.

The defender said: "It was just great to be part of. To see 50,000 Wolves supporters at Wembley was unbelievable, just unbelievable.

"On the way to Wembley I was thinking – even though it is horrible thing to say – I had played in the First Division all my life more or less, then we are in this little Sherpa Van final.

"On the way to Wembley, you are thinking well 'this is just a little cup game'. Then all of a sudden, we were about three miles from Wembley, and it was just gold and black everywhere.

"It was incredible. And I can still remember – just before we went out the door – saying to the lads, 'we have got to win this for them'.

"We could not believe how many fans were there,

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by David Cosgrove

And I can still remember – just before we went out the door – saying to the lads, 'we have got to win this for them'

we really couldn't believe it. I started laughing the other night when I saw the first team having their parade through the city. They won [The Championship] and are back in the Premier League. But it was similar for us on that Sunday after the Sherpa Van.

"I thought 'good God' – it shows how much it means to the supporters. When you think we had just won the fourth division and the Sherpa Van, and we had exactly the same kind of celebration, it is absolutely great."

Anticipation was huge in the build-up to the game with fans snaking around Molineux for tickets.

Up to 6,000 camped and queued for the last remaining 4,500 tickets days before the game took place, with the total attendance larger than an England versus Scotland game a week earlier. It remains Wolves' last trip to Wembley, while the crowd of 80,841 still stands as the Trophy's highest-ever attendance.

Long-awaited success on the pitch came against a backdrop of turmoil off it, with Wolves having faced liquidation and extinction in the years preceding the final. Northern Irishman Dennison, who netted Wolves' second goal, said: "It was a difficult time for the club then. They looked like they were going out of business at one point.

"And then I think the momentum started again with those couple of seasons where we got promoted and won the Sherpa Van. I think it was a crucial time really for the club. The parade the other day was sort of similar to what we went through as well. You know driving through the streets of Wolverhampton, the place was absolutely rammed.

"The celebrations afterwards were absolutely in-

credible. The fans deserved to get back on track again and that is what we were able to produce at that time again."

Legendary full-back Andy Thompson previously revealed how the Wolves players were stunned by the number of supporters who had travelled to Wembley.

The Featherstone-born defender said: "We knew how big the crowd was going to be, but nothing prepared us for what we saw.

"I'd never seen a group of people that big in my life and the Wolves fans were in great voice. It set us up for a day to remember."

Meanwhile club-record goalscorer Bully described the scale of the club's support as making 'the hairs stand up on the back of your neck'.

In his review of the match, Bully said: "Unbelievable! That's the only way I can describe our victory at Wembley, which rounded off a quite incredible season.

If someone had told me last August that by the end of May Wolves would have won the Fourth Division title and the Sherpa Van Trophy and I would score 52 goals, I would have laughed at them and told them they were mad.

Dream

"But it's happened and it's a dream come true. Going to Wembley from our hotel I don't think it really dawned on us we were actually going to play in a final until we got about three miles from the ground.

"Then we saw Wolves supporters in their hats and scarves waving and shouting at us, and that's when the nerves really started coming.

"And to walk out for the start of a match in front of more than 80,000 supporters was another quite unbelievable and unforgettable experience.

"I wouldn't mind playing at Wembley every week." Keith Downing, who completed the full 90 minutes in Wolves' midfield, said: "I think at the time back in 1988 it was a revival of the club itself.

"I suppose it is a fond memory to a lot of supporters. It was the first sign of a recovery and the Sherpa Van was the icing on the cake, because the main priority was to get back up through the leagues.

Proud Wolves boss Turner said at the time that the Sherpa Van success had been the highpoint of the season.

Tivi lose promotion plea but boss stays

TIVIDALE boss Dave King is plotting another push for West Midlands League glory after his side's promotion appeal was rejected by the Football Association.

King and general manager Leon Murray travelled to Wembley for the hearing after appealing against the decision to promote Midland League Division One side Ilkeston at Tivi's expense. Both sides had finished runners-up in their respective divisions but the Derbyshire outfit were awarded a place in the Midland Premier.

Tividale were knocked back due to the fact the Midland League Division One has a direct link with the Midland Football League Division, whereas the West Midlands Premier acts as an independent step six competition.

King, however, has committed himself to the club after rejecting an approach from a club further up the pyramid. He said: "All our focus is now on next season. I think we gave a great account of ourselves at Wembley but unfortunately we couldn't get the decision overturned."

World Cup special with Wolves stars

DARLASTON Town (1874) FC are holding an Evening of World Cup Football with former Wolves Stars Matt Murray and Joleon Lescott as special guests looking back on their careers and Wolves promotion winning year.

Premier League, FA Cup and Football League Cup winner and former England International Joleon Lescott will be joined by Wolves 2003 play-off final man-of-the-match and Sky Sports pundit Matt Murray.

The evening on July 7 will feature one of the World Cup quarter final games at 7pm. Following the game Lescott and Murray, both highly respected football pundits who are still closely involved with Wolves, will reflect on their own careers, the rise of Wolves under Nuno Espirito Santo and will answer questions on today's Premier League and of course England's World Cup performances.

Memorabilia from Wolves promotion winning year will be auctioned on the night as will a signed shirt of Walsall FC. The event is at The Paycare Ground, Bentley Leisure Pavilion

Runners versus horses in Welsh hill race

THERE were plenty of opportunities for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club to pull on the vest and race at the weekend.

The action got underway on Saturday morning with a small group of DK and former DK members taking on the Man vs Horse race in Wales. This is an annual event where runners and horses cover a 23-mile course of Welsh hills and the prize goes to the first one back on either two legs or four. Although the race was in its 39th year there have only ever been two human victors. This year's event was a close run affair with the horse winning by a mere 23 seconds.

Of the blue hoops in attendance Steve Holdcroft put in an impressive performance to claim 23rd place in 2.56.19 but the weather put paid to Simon Hughes' bid as he called it a day at around 16 miles. A team made up of Dudley runners and former DK members, Matt Biggs, Dave Norman and Darrell Bodin of Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers took part in the event as a relay team finishing fifth in 2.54.33.



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Skipper leads Heathens to stunning win

SKIPPER Adam Roynon produced a stunning final ride to secure maximum points for Cradley from their 49-40 win against Coventry.

The Motor Market Heathens had already wrapped up victory in the penultimate race, courtesy of a fifth heat win of the afternoon from teenage sensation Drew Kemp.

Roynon or Jason Edwards needed to split the home duo of Connor Mountain and former Heathen Jon Armstrong but there was anxiety early on. The Bees made the gate and Armstrong hit the front while Roynon had to work his way into second. With Mountain breathing down his neck the pressure was on. But the Heathens No.1 went out into the dirt to blast by Armstrong on the entrance to lap three and also ensured a personal paid maximum in the process.

It rounded off a solid afternoon for Cradley who took control of the meeting early on, opening with three heat advantages. But they were given a reminder that there was plenty still to be done in the sixth race as they handed Coventry a 5-0. Chris Widman had already retired at the back when Alfie Bowtell was deemed to have collided with Danny Phillips on the second lap and was disqualified.

A fired-up Bowtell made amends by comfortably winning Heat Eight before tucking in behind Kemp for a 5-1 in the ninth as they moved nine in front. But with Edwards and Kyle Bickley missing out at the start of the next, Coventry edged back to within five. Step forward in-form duo Roynon and Kemp who claimed the final five race wins between them.

Heathens suffered a blow on Tuesday when Roynon ended up in hospital with a broken arm after crashing into a fence when riding for Plymouth Devils at Isle of Wight Warriors.

Zero hero as Rutter roars to TT glory

BRIERLEY Hill-born speedster Michael Rutter claimed a superb Isle of Man TT victory, the sixth of his career in the competition, with a win in the TT Zero event.

It was a superb day for the 46-year-old who followed up the success with third place in the Supertwins series.

Rutter received his first-placed rosette from the Duke of Cambridge Prince William, who was present at the electric bike event.

Team Mugen rider Rutter set a new lap record for electric bikes in claiming victory in the TT Zero race.

He became the first rider to complete the one-lap sprint of the 37-mile (60km) course at an average speed of more than 120mph.

He said: "To do a lap of 121.824mph on an electric bike is amazing."

Rutter, on his Paton machine, took third in the Supertwins behind winner Michael Dunlop and Derek McGee.

Wilkinson takes control at Gornal

GORNAL Athletic have appointed Brendon Wilkinson as their new manager.

Club director Kevin Williams is excited about the new developments at Garden Walk.

"We wanted a candidate with the experience to get us out of this league", Williams said. "He's got players who want to play for him and it was unanimous between the committee and the chairman to give him the role."

With The Peacocks currently in West Midlands League Division One, the club provides a step up

for Wilkinson, who has previously only worked at Sunday league level.

"I know he's not managed at this level before", Williams admitted, "but Brendon took AFC Woodcross from Division Eight to the Wolverhampton and District Sunday League Premier."

Wilkinson has already brought in assistant Craig Love, and coaches Mike Robertson and Dan Crudginton to work alongside him.

Lee Farrington was installed as Gornal's new chairman, just two days prior to the Wilkinson

announcement, stating his hopes to 'take the club to the next level'. "I have been thrilled and honoured to be asked to become chairman of Gornal Athletic Football Club," he said. "We need to re-energise the club, provide the supporters with a successful team and academy and bring the missing spectators back to Garden Walk."

The former Cradley Town vice-chairman replaces Williams, who remains as a director after five years in charge. Gornal finished fifth last term.

YOUNGSTERS BOOST ATTACK

HALESOWEN outplayed Shifnal but the Shropshire side hung on for a losing draw on 161 for nine after the home side had scored 245 for eight.

Ed Kilbee (81) and Hassan Qaumi (61) added 114 for the second Halesowen wicket, while Alex Wyatt (four for 45) and Alex Riley (three for 53) took seven of the eight wickets that fell, the eighth and final wicket falling to a run out.

After a decent start, moving to 46 without loss, Steve Leach was left to defend Shifnal's honour, finishing unbeaten on 79 from 135 balls as Shifnal hung on at 161 for nine. Eddie Rhodes took four for 40 and Charlie Hartley took three for 42 in the Birmingham League division one clash.

After a game which was a nail-biter to the end captain Alexei Kervezee said: "With 21 points separating eight clubs after seven games in the division it goes to show what a tight league this is going to be."

Status

"We knew at the start of the season that with the future status of West Midlands cricket to play for that it would be like this and so far we are up there with the better teams."

"It was great to see Ed Kilbee and Hassan Qaumi in full flow today and with Eddie Rhodes and Charlie Hartley in fine form with the ball it all augurs well. Next we face Barnards Green and that will be a tester for us as they did well last year, but we are playing good cricket so let's see if we can inch one step further next week."

Asked about the club awarding a first team debut to 16-year-old Charlie Greening, the skipper added: "He has earned it with his wickets hauls in the second XI not just this season but also in 2017. It was great to see him perform and get a few overs under his belt too. He is one for the future and, with Hassan Akram also back soon, the youngsters are pushing on nicely."

Siblings target archery glory



Stourbridge sisters Heike Palmer and Freya are making their mark in the world of archery

A PAIR of Stourbridge sisters are arrowing in on success in the sport of archery.

Ace duo Freya and Heike Palmer have consistently hit the target since first drawing their bows and are now eyeing glory on the international stage.

Freya, aged 15, is a member of Archery GB's Olympic Pathway Academy, attending monthly residential coaching camps at Lilleshall.

Heike, just 12, will represent England at

under-14 level in Home Nations Tournament. She caught the eye of selectors by winning the Long Mynd Archers event, breaking a national record previously held by her sister. She is also on Archery GB's talent development programme.

The girls fit archery around studying at Ridgewood High School and are members of Wyre Forest Company of Archers. To sponsor the sisters email maxpax32@virginmedia.com

Driver Neal is closing in on leaders

STOURBRIDGE racer Matt Neal remains in contention for the British Touring Car Championship driver's title after securing another podium finish.

The three-time champion continued his recent run of fine form with his third podium finish in five races.

The event at Oulton Park in Cheshire, again proved the title credentials of his Honda Civic Type R as he kept the pressure on the Championship pacesetters. Neal qualified in fifth place for the weekend's races, carrying ballast of 33kg.

He went on to navigate the notoriously tricky course to cement a fifth place finish in the first of three races. In the second, Neal continued to defy his handicap. After going into the fifth lap in third place, he made a late move to claim second place for his third, and the team's fourth, podium finish of the 2018 season.

Starting in sixth position for the final race of the weekend, Neal initially looked to defy the odds but couldn't sustain his challenge, finishing a disappointing 14th. Despite that Neal remains firmly in contention for the overall title.

Neal said: "Not a bad weekend for us. Maybe no cigar this time. I was just unlucky in the last race. There's a long way to go yet - we're not even half way."

The weekend's results leaves Neal in sixth place in the driver's standings, that's 14 points behind third place and 26 behind current leader Colin Turkington. With six races to go, Neal and his Halfords Yuasa team compete at Croft circuit in the North-East on June 23-24.

Warmer climate with return to The Grove

HALESOWEN TOWN have bolstered their squad for the upcoming season after bringing back fans' favourite Tom Warner to The Grove.

Warner, who had been overseas, has re-signed for The Yeltz after returning to the UK. It comes after the Yeltz saw off suitors for midfielder Ahmed Ali. Boss John Hill said: "Both myself and (assistant manager) Matt Clarke are delighted to have secured the signing of Ahmed Ali for the forthcoming season, a signing that really shows our intentions." Ali follows skipper Danny Bragoli, Asa Charlton, Jack Kelly, keeper Daniel Platt and Lee Hughes in committing.

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